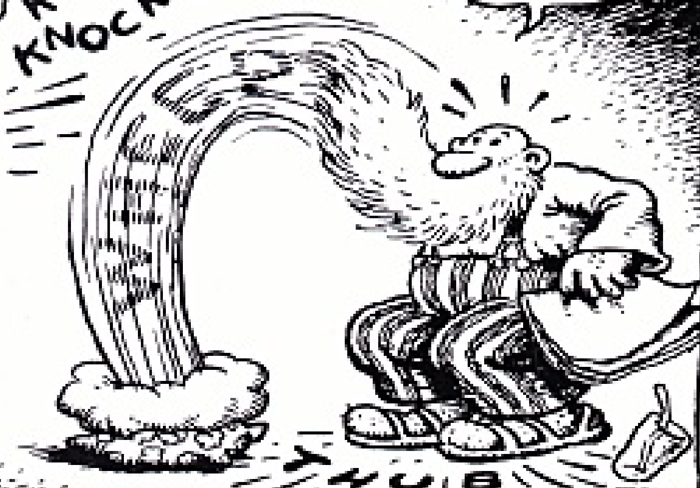
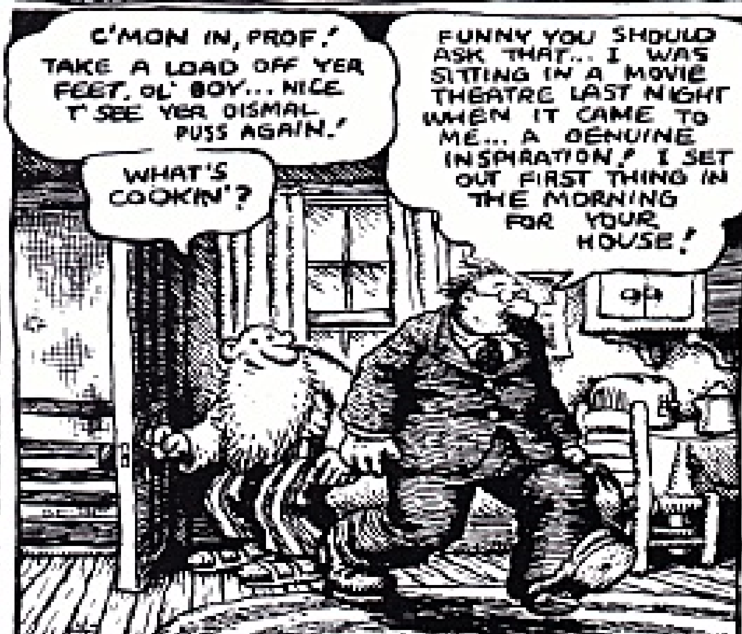

WE FIND MR. NATURAL RELAXING AT HOME.
HM...ACCORDING TO THIS, AVATARS MADE MORE MONEY LAST YEAR THAN MOVIE STARS!
BUNCH O' GANGSTERS, I CALL 'EM!!


KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
HUP!
SOMEBODY'S HERE!
THUB


IT'S THAT LOVABLE OLD ATHEIST, PROFESSOR WANOWSKI!


C'MON IN, PROF! TAKE A LOAD OFF YER FEET, OL' BOY... NICE T' SEE YER DISMAL PUSS AGAIN!
WHAT'S COOKIN'?
FUNNY YOU SHOULD ASK THAT... I WAS SITTING IN A MOVIE THEATRE LAST NIGHT WHEN IT CAME TO ME... A GENUINE INSPIRATION! I SET OUT FIRST THING IN THE MORNING FOR YOUR HOUSE!


A NEW SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY NO DOUBT! LAST TIME I SAW YOU IT WAS TH' DAY AFTER YOU JOINED TH' COMMUNIST PARTY... YOUR ENTHUSIASM KNEW NO BOUNDS...HA HA SILLY BOY!
NO, NO, NO, THAT HAS FIZZLED OUT... I'M ON A NEW KICK NOW... A FAR MORE ADVANCED POLITICAL THEORY... PERHAPS TOO ADVANCED, CONSIDERING THE PRESENT BARBARIC SOCIAL CONDITIONS, BUT WE CAN DISCUSS ALL THAT LATER... FIRST, I'VE BROUGHT YOU SOMETHING I KNOW YOU'LL FLIP OVER...


YOU ARE A GENIUS!
WOTTA STROKE OF SHEER BRILLIANCE!!
HEY, NOW YOU'RE TALKIN'!! YOU REMEMBERED MY FAVORITE DISH! BOILED CABBAGE!
PRIZISELY! PUT ON A POT O' WATER AN' GET OUT TH' BUTTER AN' TH' SALT 'N' PEPPER! WE'LL PONDER THE GREAT QUESTIONS OVER BIG STEAMING PLATES OF BOILED CABBAGE!!


BILLY BOB, THE MOST DEVOTED OF ALL THE MR. NATURAL FANS, SEEKS AN AUDIENCE WITH HIS HERO...
A HUT IN THE MIDDLE OF A DESOLATE WASTE-LAND! WHAT A HUMBLE HOME FOR THE GREAT MR. NATURAL!
...SO BEFITTING HIS PURE MYSTICAL SAINTLY ESSENCE!

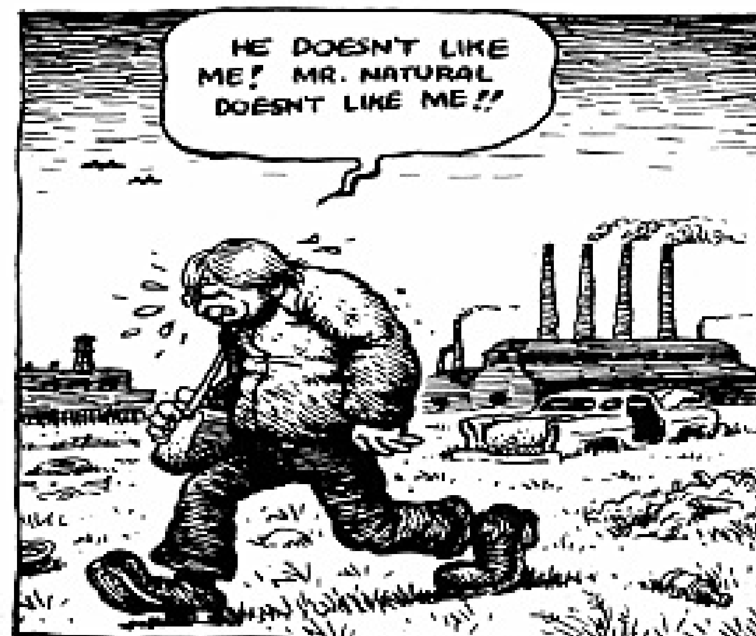

I'VE BEEN A MR. NATURAL FAN FOR YEARS...AND FINALLY I'VE GOTTEN UP THE COURAGE TO SEEK HIM OUT! NOW I'M GOING TO TALK TO HIM IN PERSON!! I KNOW HE WON'T REFUSE ME...HE'S SUCH A BEAUTIFUL DUDE!


UHOH! AN OBSTICLE COURSE... A SET-UP TO TEST THE DEVOTION OF THE TRUE DISCIPLE SUCH AS MYSELF, AND DISCOURAGE THE MERE CURIOSITY SEEKER...
BUT I MUST REMEMBER TO ASK HIM WHAT SECRET POWER HE USES TO GET ACCROSS THIS!!

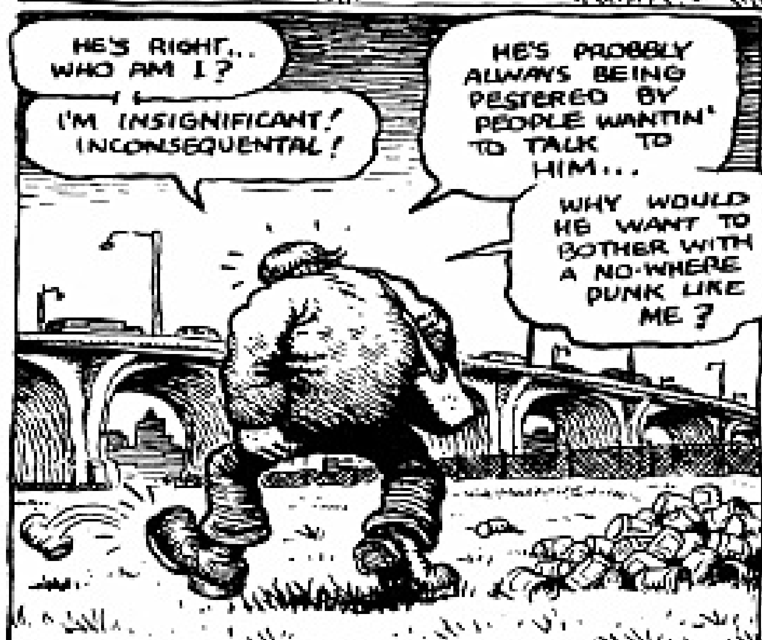

MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE HOUSE, MR. NATURAL IS CHATTING WITH HIS OLD FRIEND, PROFESSOR WANOWSKI....
LISTEN TO THIS, PROF! HERE'S A LETTER FROM A GUY WHO WANTS ME TO FRONT A NEW NATIONAL FRANCHISE BUSINESS.... "MR. NATURAL" ORGANIC HAMBURGER STANDS... WHADAYA THINK? SHOULD I DO IT?
WELL, OF COURSE, IT DEPENDS ON A MIRIAD OF VARIABLES, BUT IF I WAS IN YOUR PLACE, THE FIRST QUESTION I'D ASK MYSELF IS: WILL THIS HELP FURTHER THE CAUSE OF ANARCHO-SYNDICALISM? THE ANSWER, OBVIOUSLY, IS "NO"... THEREFORE...


YELP!
SPLASH!
WHAT IN THE WORLD—
HMM... SOUNDS LIKE ANOTHER YOUNG FOOL IN TROUBLE OUT THERE, MR. NATURAL...


HELP! HELP!
MR. NATURAL! HELP ME UP OUTA THIS MUCK!
PLEEZE ?!
PULEEEZE ??
DISSILLUSIONMENT NUMBER ONE, FANBOY! BEAT IT!!


HE DOESN'T LIKE ME! MR. NATURAL DOESN'T LIKE ME!!


HE REJECTED ME! HE TOLD ME TO "BEAT IT"... OH DEAR GOD, I'M SO HUMILIATED!!
SHIT... HE MUST NOT THINK I'M A BEAUTIFUL PERSON!!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND!


HE'S RIGHT... WHO AM I?
I'M INSIGNIFICANT! INCONSEQUENTAL!
HE'S PROBBLY ALWAYS BEING PESTERED BY PEOPLE WANTIN' TO TALK TO HIM...
WHY WOULD HE WANT TO BOTHER WITH A NO-WHERE PUNK LIKE ME?


HEY KID!
HUH?
WHUH?




YOUR HUMILITY HAS TOUCHED ME DEEPLY...BUT LET'S GET ONE THING STRAIGHT, FANBOY; I'VE RETIRED TO A LIFE OF QUIET CONTEMPLATION... ...I DON'T GIVE ADVICE ON SPIRITUAL MATTERS AND I DON'T TEACH NO MENTAL POWERS...
OH YES SIR, MR. NATURAL!
(...NOT THAT I EVER DID... IT WAS ALWAYS A HYPE... ALOTTA MUMBO-JUMBO... I TOLD ALL MY DISCIPLES TA HIT TH' ROAD LAST YEAR... YOU'D NEVER BELIEVE HOW TEDIOUS IT WAS TRYING TO GET RID OF THEM! SHORT!)
RIGHT... HA HA... CERTAINLY...OH, ABSOLUTELY, MR. NATURAL!!


... AS I WAS SAYING, I NO LONGER ASSUME TO PROMOTE OR PREACH TO ANYONE ABOUT ANYTHING... MY ONLY ADVICE TO YOU, MY FRIEND, IS: STOP CHASING ILLUSIONS! FACE REALITY!

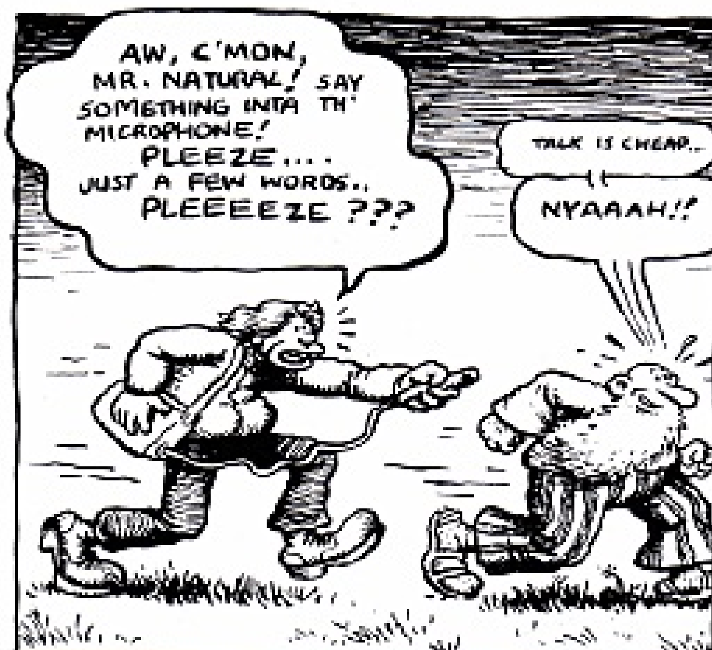

FIND YOURSELF A WORTHY OCCUPATION... GET MARRIED... RAISE A FAMILY! WORK FOR THE BETTERMENT OF YOUR COMMUNITY! THESE ARE THE THINGS IN LIFE THAT—
ER... WAIT A MINUTE, MR. NATURAL! HOLD IT, JUST A SECOND!


STOP BEING SO SELFISH! LOOK AROUND YOU! FOR THE SELF IS BUT A REFLECTION OF THE~~~
I'M TRYING TO GET THIS DAMN TAPE RECORDER WORKING... OH JEEZ THIS FUCKING THING IS SUCH A HASSLE!


I WANT TO GET EVERY WORD OF YOUR PRECIOUS WISDOM ON TAPE... SO I'LL HAVE IT T' LISTEN TO LATER, OKAY?
I JUST HAFTA GET THIS MIKE LEVEL HERE..
TESTING, TESTING... ONE TWO THREE... TESTING...


OKAY, WE'RE ALL SET... NOW, YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT THE SELF!? BEING A REFLECTION OR SOMETHING??
I... UH...
GO ON! TALK!

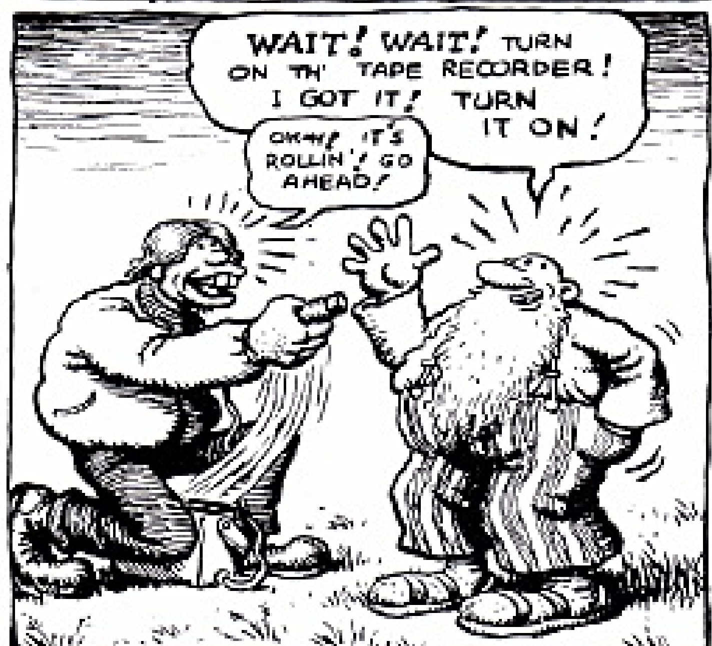

I... HAVE... NOTHING... TO ...SAY...


AW, C'MON, MR. NATURAL! SAY SOMETHING INTA TH' MICROPHONE! PLEEZE.... JUST A FEW WORDS.. PLEEEEZE ???
TALK IS CHEAP..
NYAAAH!!

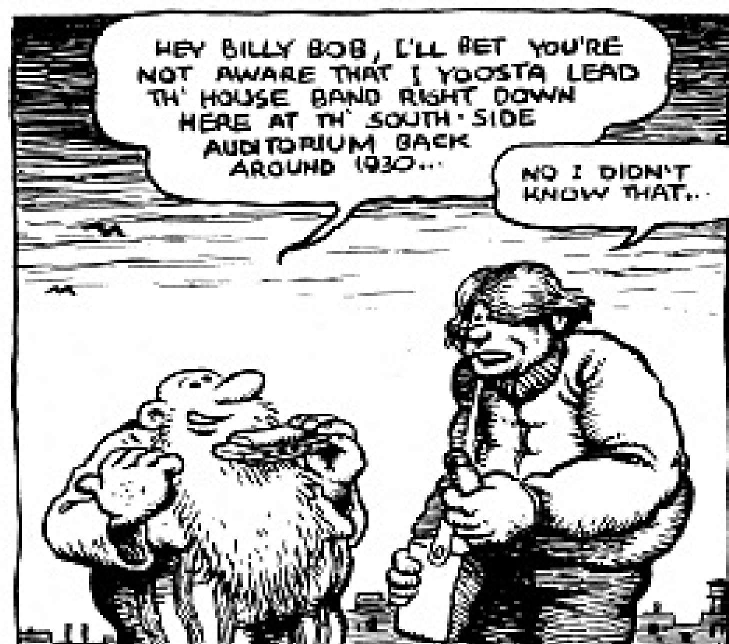

SAY, FELLA, WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO? SELL THESE TAPES TO ONE OF THESE BIG RECORD COMPANIES? IS THAT YOUR LITTLE SCHEME?
IS IT?
OH NO! I—


YOU GONNA MAKE LOTSA LOOT SELLIN' THOSE TAPES? HAH? OH I'VE SEEN YOUR KIND BEFORE! YOU COME PUSHIN' YOUR WAY IN HERE, TAKIN' ADVANTAGE OF A KIND-HEARTED OLD MAN... YOU YOUNG PUNK! THINK YOU CAN OUT-SLICK ME JUST 'CAUSE I'M AN OLD MAN, HUH? WELL LISSEN, BUB, THE NATCH IS NOBODY'S FOOL!
NO, I WOULDN'T—
GOT THAT?


OH FOR SHAME! FOR SHAME!
NO I WOULD NEVER NEVER DO A THING LIKE THAT, MR. NATURAL! HONEST! I SWEAR! ALL I WANTED WAS JUST TO HAVE YOUR VOICE ON TAPE TO INSPIRE ME IN MOMENTS OF....


WAIT! WAIT! TURN ON TH' TAPE RECORDER! I GOT IT! TURN IT ON!
OKAY! IT'S ROLLIN'! GO AHEAD!


NOW... LET'S GET A THING GOIN' HERE... ONE TWO THREE, ONE TWO THREE... TAP YER FOOT IN TIME.....ONE TWO THREE... THIS'S CALLED "HERBERT'S MAZURKA" ...LET 'ER GO!!
HUP
YEAH


HEY BILLY BOB, I'LL BET YOU'RE NOT AWARE THAT I YOOSTA LEAD TH' HOUSE BAND RIGHT DOWN HERE AT TH' SOUTH-SIDE AUDITORIUM BACK AROUND 1930...
NO I DIDN'T KNOW THAT...


OH BOY, THAT WUZ A DAMN GOOD ORCHESTRA WE HAD THEN... LESSEE, THERE WAS ME ON ACCORDION, THE KRELANICHEK BROTHERS ON FIDDLE AND GUITAR, AND OL' CHARLEY "UNCLE CHUCKO" FRIEDMAN WOULD DOUBLE ON XYLO-PHONE AN' DRUMS... NOW THERE WAS A REAL CHARACTER FOR YOU! HE RAN OFF AN' JOINED THE NAVY WHEN THE BOTTOM FELL OUTA TH' MUSIC BUSINESS...
WELL I'LL BE DARN...
TAP TAP


HERE'S A NUMBER THAT HAD 'EM ALL ON THEIR FEET AT THE OLD SOUTH SIDE AUDITORIUM... "THE FATAL FLOWER GARDEN"... 'S A WALTZ... GOES LIKE THIS...

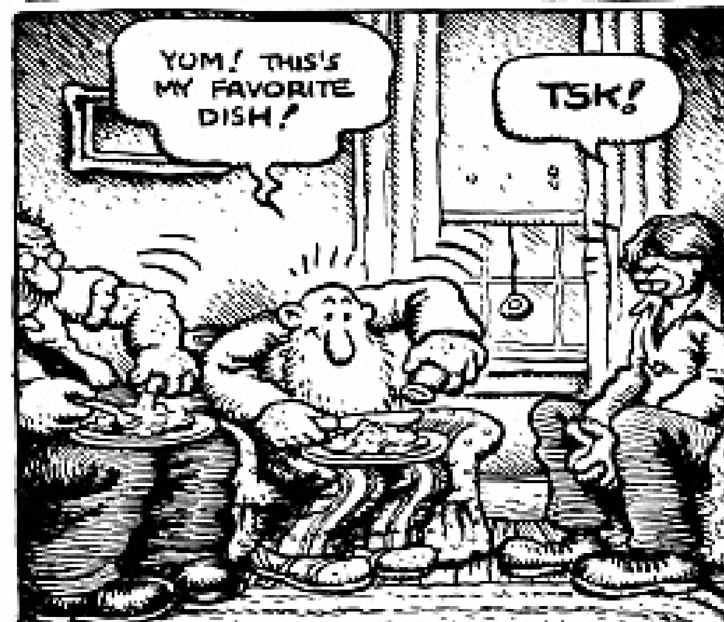

UH... MR. NATURAL... UM... WHAT, IN YOUR OPINION, IS THE TRUE PATH TO SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT?
HUH? WHUDGA SAY, BILLY BOB?


KIDS TODAY HAVE NO APPRECIATION FOR GOOD MUSIC... I GIVE UP...
PUT THAT TAPE RECORDER AWAY, YOU!!


SNIFF SNIFF! I SMELL SOMETHIN' GOO-OO-OOD!!
C'MON, BILLY BOB! I DUNNO ABOUT SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT, BUT THIS WAY IS TH' "TRUE PATH" TO BOILED CABBAGE!
YUMMY NUM


ME FOR SOME O' THAT BOILED CABBAGE, POST HASTE ?!
HOW 'BOUT YOU, BILLY BOB ?!
WELL, I —


YOU'RE BACK JUST IN TIME, FRED... HERE'S YOUR PLATE! DOES YOUR FRIEND WANT SOME TOO?
UH... NO THANKS, MAN...
MMMM

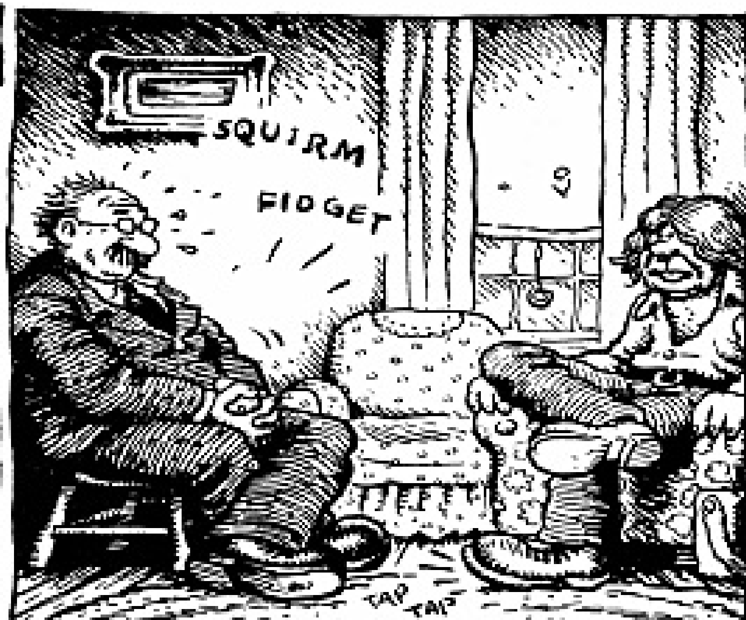

YUM! THIS'S MY FAVORITE DISH!
TSK!


MUNCH MUNCH CHOFF
MM... GOOD GRUB... CHOFF SLURP SHLOP
SIGH!


SO, UH... YOU DON'T LIKE BOILED CABBAGE, EH, BILLY BOB?
WHAT'S THIS BOILED CABBAGE BIT ALL ABOUT? IS THIS SOME KIND OF ZEN NUMBER YOU'RE TRYING TO LAY ON ME OR WHAT?? I MEAN, WHAT EXACTLY IS TH' POINT OF THIS BOILED CABBAGE ROUTINE?
MUNCH MUNCH


...KID DOESN'T LIKE BOILED CABBAGE...
THESE KIDS TODAY HAVE NO TASTE FOR THE FINER THINGS... TOO BAD FOR HIM!


Mr. Natural's guests this week are Professor Wonowsky and Fan-boy Billy Bob!
WELL, I HAFTA TAKE A CRAPOLA... YOU CATS CAN GET BETTER ACQUAINTED WHILE I'M GONE...


SQUIRM
FIDGET
TAP TAP


UH...WANNA HEAR TH' NEW BRUCE SHARPSTEEN ALBUM? I GOT IT RIGHT HERE ON TAPE!
NO THANKS... I'M READING THIS BOOK!


I CARRY MY TAPE DECK AROUND WITH ME WHERE EVER I GO....
UNH...


HEY, LISTEN TO THIS BRUCE SHARPSTEEN, MAN! THIS GUY'S TH' HEAVIEST ROCK-POET-GENIUS OF TH' SEVENDEEZ!
I BROUGHT THIS TAPE ALONG TO PLAY FOR MR. NATURAL... HE'LL DIG IT!
ARNGHH
TENTH AVENUE FREEZE-OUT
YEAH
HUP!


TEE HEE... I KNEW IF I LEFT THEM ALONE THERE'D BE TROUBLE!
GRRRR

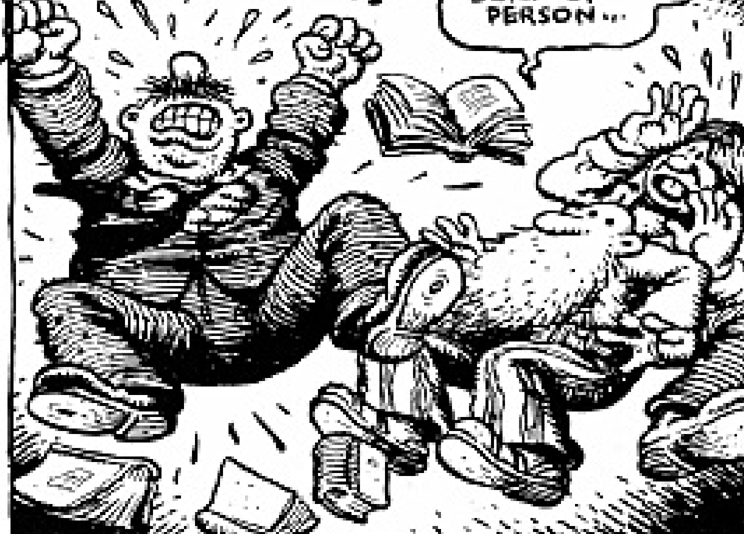

I FIGURED THAT HOT-HEADED PROF. WANOWSKY WOULD PICK ON TH' KID IF I LEFT TH' ROOM... ...CHUCKLE... HE'S NOT TOO CRAZY ABOUT THAT BRUCE SHARPSTEEN'S MUSIC... SNICKER...
YOUNG MAN, WILL YOU PLEASE DO ME THE COURTESY OF TURNING THAT INFERNAL TAPE MACHINE OFF?? IT'S GIVING ME A HEAD-ACHE!


HEY, MAN, LISTEN TO WHAT THE DUDE IS SAYING... THE WORDS, MAN! THIS'S THE MUSIC OF THE STREETS!! YOU'RE OUT OF TOUCH WITH REAL LIFE IF YOU CAN'T—
BAH! THIS SO-CALLED "MUSIC" SYMBOLIZES NOTHING TO ME SO MUCH AS THE TEMPER TANTRUMS OF A SPOILED LITTLE LORD FAUNT-LEROY WHO'S TIRED OF HIS EXPENSIVE TOYS, NOW WILL YOU PLEASE TURN THAT THING OFF??
OKAY... OKAY... BE COOL... PEACE, OKAY? PEACE?
CLICK


HEY, UH... LIGHTEN UP, MAN... MAYBE IF YOU'D QUIT TRYING TO COME ON WITH THAT INTELLECTUAL RAP, AND OPEN UP TO WHAT BRUCE IS LAYING DOWN IN THESE—
YOU, MY SON, ARE A DUPE OF THE MASS MEDIA, INSULATED FROM REALITY BY A HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED BUT NONETHELESS INSIDIOUS TECHNOLOGICAL FORM OF BRAINWASHING! AND THAT'S MY FINAL SAY ON THE SUBJECT!


... AND WILL YOU BUTTON YOUR SHIRT UP, FOR GOD'S SAKE!?!
FUCKIN' UP TIGHT OL' MOTHAFUCKA!


SO, UHH... ARE YOU FELLOWS HITTING IT OFF? HEH HEH...
BRUCE WAS TOO HEAVY FOR TH' PROF, MR. NATURAL... HE COULDN'T HANDLE IT... REALLY FREAKED HIM OUT!
HEY, WANNA SMOKE A JOINT?


YAARGHH!!
YES, I KNOW... HE'S A FUSSY SORT OF PERSON...


HERR UNKLE DOKTOR WANOWSKY SEEMS A LITTLE TICKED OFF, HUH, BILLY-BOB?!
JEEZ, I HOPE I DIDN'T RUIN YOUR FRIENDSHIP...

NAW... HE'LL GET OVER IT... TH' OL' FUSS BUDGET... SO THEN, BILLY BOB!
I... I GUESS I SHOULD GET GETTING TOO... I'M JUST HANGING AROUND MAKING A PEST OF MYSELF...

ANYWAY, YOU TOLD ME YOU DON'T GIVE NO SPIRITUAL ADVICE ANYMORE... BUT, THANKS FOR LETTIN' ME COME IN YOUR HOUSE AN' ALL... SEE YA SOMETIME... ...MAYBE?...
WAIT, BILLY BOB... I... I HAVE TO TELL YOU SOMETHING BEFORE YOU GO...

I — I'M NO PERFECT MASTER, KID... HA! WHAT A JOKE! I'M AS SPIRITUALLY CORRUPT AS ANYBODY ELSE... HELL, WHO AM I TO GIVE OUT ADVICE ON MATTERS OF THE SOUL?? I'M JUST AS MIRED IN SELFISH DESIRES AS YOU... I CHASE ILLUSIONS... I LOVE THE PLEASURES OF THE FLESH... IN FACT, YOU ARE PROBABLY A FAR MORE SPIRITUAL PERSON THAN ME!
ME? OH NO! I... NO...

I SHOULD PROSTRATE MYSELF BEFORE YOU AND BEG TO BE FORGIVEN, FOR I AM BUT A FOOL... ...A SELF-DELUDED EGOTIST, WALLOWING IN MY OWN SHIT... I, WHOSE FILTHY SOUL HAS KNOWN THE DEPRAVITIES OF THE LOWEST ANIMAL PASSIONS... THAT YOU SHOULD LOOK TO ME FOR GUIDANCE IN YOUR QUEST! OH CURSED MUST BE MY FOUL BEING... FORGIVE ME BILLY BOB. I BEG YOU...
OH, NO, MR. NATURAL...
...BUT...
NO... YOU'RE NOT...

MR. NATURAL... YOU ARE... SOB... SO B-B-B-BYOODEE-FULL...
BLUBBER
CHOKE
SPLUT
BEAT IT YOU!


LOOKY HERE, BILLY BOB, I DON'T WANTCHA T' GO OFF FEELIN' LIKE Y' DIDN'T GET ANYTHING OUTA THIS MEETING WITH TH' NATCH, SO I'LL TELL Y' WHAT I'M GONNA DO!
OH NO, THAT'S OKAY! YOU DON'T HAVE TO — I DON'T EXPECT — I MEAN —
POKE


TUT TUT!! I GOT A LITTLE MANTRA HERE JUST FOR YOU, MY SON... YOUR VERY OWN SECRET CHANT! ...GOES LIKE THIS.... "OHWHA TAGOO SIAM"... JUST KEEP SAYIN' THAT OVER AN' OVER TO YERSELF AN' YER TROUBLES'LL SOON MELT LIKE BUBBLES!
"OHWHA TAGOO SIAM"... ...OHWHA TAGOO SIAM...


OHWHA TAGOO SIAM...OHWHA TAGOO SIAM...OHWHA TAGOO SIAM... THANK YOU, MR. NATURAL!
GOOD LUCK KID, AN' DON'T FORGET YOUR DEEP BREATHING EXCERSIZES... HEH HEH

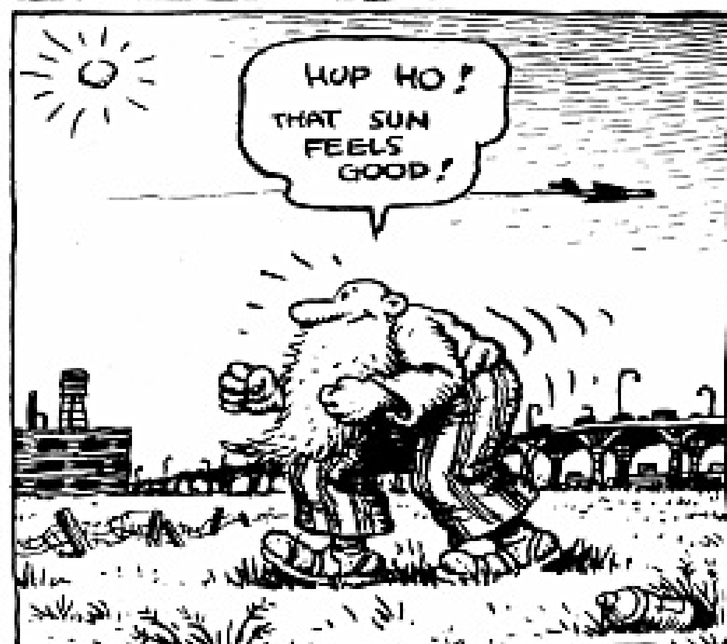

....OHWHA TAGOO SIAM OHWHA TAGOO SIAM OHWHA TAGOO SIAM OHWHA TAGOO SIAM OHWHA TAGOO SIAM OHWHA TAGOO SIAM...
IT DOES HAVE A CERTAIN RING TO IT...I KIN TELL IT'S MY OWN PERSONAL COSMIC MANTRA! I FEEL MORE ENLIGHTENED ALREADY!!


OHWHA TAGOO SIAM OHWHA TAGOO SIAM OHWHA TAGOO SIAM OHWHA TAGOO SIAM...OHWHATAGOOSIAM OHWHATAGOOSIAM...
...WONDER HOW THIS CHANT WORKS.... BOY, I KNEW MR. NATURAL WOULDNT LET ME DOWN... I'M SO HAPPY NOW!
25


OHWHATAGOOSIAM OHWHAT A GOOSIAM
OH WHAT A GOOSE I AM...
OH WHAT A GOOSE I AM?!?
HEY WAIT A MINUTE! I'VE BEEN GYPPED!!


AARNHH! UM HUM... HAD A WEIRD DREAM... I WAS WALKING THROUGH A SKID ROW NEIGHBORHOOD, AN' THE STREET WAS PAVED WITH HUMAN SKIN! IT WAS COVERED WITH SCABS AND RUNNING SORES... AN' I WAS WALKING ON IT!!
YEESH!
TH' MIND WORKS STRANGE TRICKS..


LOOKS LIKE A NICE DAY OUTSIDE! SPRING IS HERE!! I THINK I'LL GET OUTA TH' HOUSE TODAY 'N' GO FOR A HIKE!


HUP HO! THAT SUN FEELS GOOD!






YEESH...
NO PUNCH-LINE THIS WEEK...

THE OLD GEEZER IS OUT TAKING A HIKE IN "NATURE"..

WHAT IN TARNATION... I SEEM TO HAVE WANDERED INTO A TANGLE OF DENSE UNDERGROWTH...

GOLDURN THESE CONSARNED WEEDS... OUCH! AND PLUS— BARB WIRE!

SUDDENLY...

YOW!

HELP! I'M FALLING!

OOF!

THUD

I'VE FALLEN DOWN A MINE SHAFT OR AN OLD WELL... IT MUST BE FIFTY FEET FROM TH' TOP...

GOOD THING I LANDED ON MY BEARD!

WELL WELL WELL... A PERFECT SPOT FOR DEEP CONTEMPLATIONS!!

TH' CHANCE OF A LIFETIME!


BEING TRAPPED AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS OLD WELL IS A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO GET INTO SOME TRULY HEAVY MEDITATIVE TRANCES !!


NOW BEGINS THE INCREDIBLE DRAMA OF MR. NATURAL'S DEEPEST CONTEMPLATIONS...
OMMMM..
(I DON'T DO THIS THAT OFTEN)


...CONCENTRATION....
...MEDITATION....,
...CONTEMPLATION...
HUP




UH...WUH... NO! WAIT... THAT'S NOT IT...
BLINK
BLINK

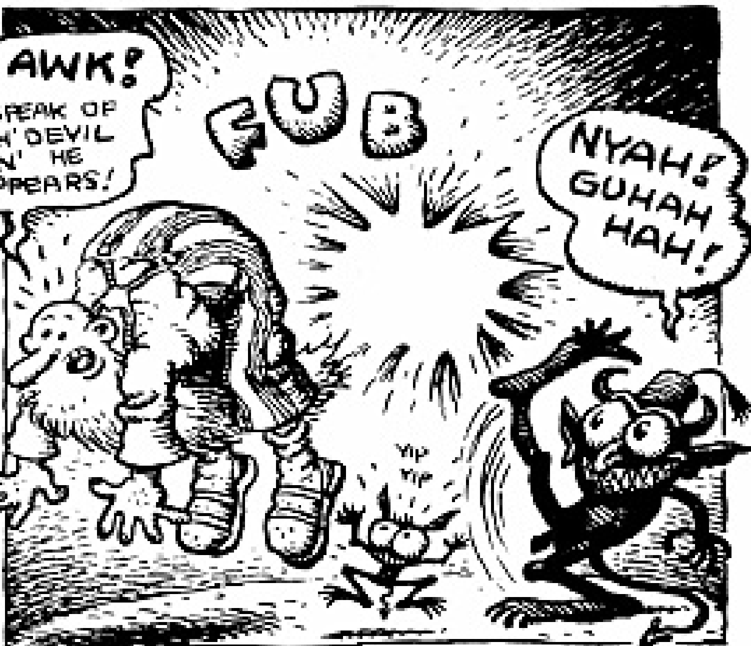

IT'S DARK AS A DUNGEON AN' DAMP AS TH' DEW DOWN HERE IN THIS OLD WELL... A PERFECT PLACE TO FIND INNER PEACE, BUT ALL I DO IS FALL ASLEEP!
WISH I HAD A CUPPA COFFEE...


I KNOW... I'LL PUT MYSELF IN A YOGA POSITION... THAT WILL KEEP ME AWAKE WHILE TRYING TO REACH THE HIGHER REALMS OF CONSCIOUSNESS...
HMM


AH! THIS IS GOOD! NOW I CAN'T FAIL TO TRAN-SCEND...
BODHISATVA HERE I COME RIGHT BACK WHERE I STARTED FROM.. LA DA DEE DA DUM...
HUP!


TWO HOURS LATER...
IT'S WORKING... I CAN TELL.. I'M AP-PROACHING THE FIRST LEVEL...
THIS IS EXCITING! STRANGE VISIONS CROWD MY THOUGHTS... DEMONS OF THE LOWER CHAKRA.. NIGHTMARE TRICKS OF THE ASTRAL PLANE!!


THIS IS A VERY POWERFUL TRANCE... THESE STRANGE HELLISH FORCES ARE GATHERING STRENGTH! IT'S ALMOST AS IF THE SQUIRMING, SNARLING BEINGS ARE ON THE VERGE OF MATERIALIZING!!
I'M SCARED!


AWK!
SPEAK OF TH' DEVIL AN' HE APPEARS!
FUB
NYAH! GUHAH HAH!
YIP YIP

OUR VENERABLE "ACE IN THE HOLE" FINDS HIMSELF STUCK WITH AN OBNOXIOUS CHARACTER!

OH MY SHIVERIN' BONES! IT'S PIZUZU, THE SCURGE OF TH' ANCIENT CHALDEANS!

CACKLE CACKLE CACKLE CACKLE CACKLE

BORN TO RAISE HELL! HAR HAR!

YIP YIP YIP

A CUTE LITTLE DEVIL

HE'S ONE OF TH' NASTIER DEVILS... I BETTER COME ON STRONG...

WHAT DO YOU WANT OF ME, YOU REPULSIVE SPAWN OF HADES!??

RARRR

YOU DONT SCARE ME, YOU CHEAP PUNK! NOW GET TH' HELL OUTA HERE!

GROWRRR

WISH I COULD GET OUTA HERE!

G'WAN! SCAT! SKIDADDLE!

SHOO!

HISS SPIT!!

YIP YIP

YIPE!

GNAAAARGH!

HELP!

HOLY SAINTS PRESERVE US!

WHOA!

GOTCHA!

YOWCH!

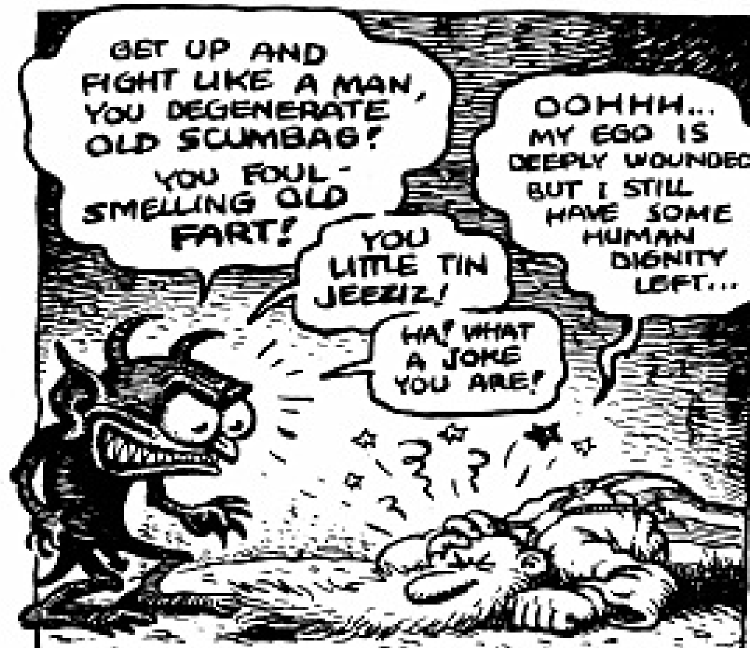
AHA HA HA HAH HA HA

TAKE THAT, YOU OLD FOOL! NYAH HA HA HA

SLAM

OOF!

JEEZIZ THIS MEDITATING IS ROUGH BIZNIZ!


GET UP AND FIGHT LIKE A MAN, YOU DEGENERATE OLD SCUMBAG! YOU FOUL-SMELLING OLD FART!
OOHHH... MY EGO IS DEEPLY WOUNDED... BUT I STILL HAVE SOME HUMAN DIGNITY LEFT...
YOU LITTLE TIN JEEZIZ!
HA! WHAT A JOKE YOU ARE!


OH SO? TRY THIS ON FOR SIZE!! HAR HAR HAR YOU DISGUSTING FILTHY OLD REPROBATE!!
WHAM
ARGH! THIS IS SO HUMILIATING..
CHUCKLE GIGGLE


GRRR...I'LL TEAR Y' LIMB FROM LIMB, YE CURSED FIEND... I'LL...I'LL...
COME ON! HAVE AT ME, CHUMP! RIGHT OVER HERE... COME ON! GET TOUGH, MR. NATURAL! HA HA HA... LOOK AT YOU! YOU'RE PATHETIC!


YOU'VE GONE SOFT, FRED...WHAT YOU NEED IS A STINT IN THE MARINES, BOY!
HUP!
BLAP
AUGH!
I GIVE I GIVE!


FUCK THAT SHIT!! I'LL KILL YOU BEFORE I'M THROUGH... YOU'RE TOO OLD TO LIVE ANYWAY... THE GRAVEYARD IS A GOOD PLACE FOR YOU, GRAMPS!
THUD!
OOF!


NOW ARE YOU READY TO KISS MY ASS, YOU OLD MONKEY?
GET BUSY!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
DON'T WORRY, FOLKS... GHASP... IT'S ALL AN ILLUSION OF TH' MIND... THIS IS NOTHING NEW TO THE NATCH...GHASP... ...IT'LL PASS... NOTHING LASTS FOREVER...

HE'S TAKING A TERRIFIC BEATING FROM THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS!! BUT HE'S NOT THROUGH YET.... OR IS HE ??

TAKE THAT!

UNH!

MY PRIDE HAS BEEN HUMBLED-

SPLAT

...AND THAT!

OOH!

I REALIZE NOW THAT I'VE BEEN SELFISH.... SELF-CENTERED...

SOCK

...AND THIS?

'N' THIS 'N' THIS 'N' THIS!

SMEK SMEK SMEK SMEK

MY EYES ARE OPENED... I'M BE-GINNING TO SEE THE LIGHT!

I WAS DEAD BUT NOW I YAM RAISED UP... RE-BORN!

...AND A LITTLE OF THIS!

CRACK

AWP!

DOOF!

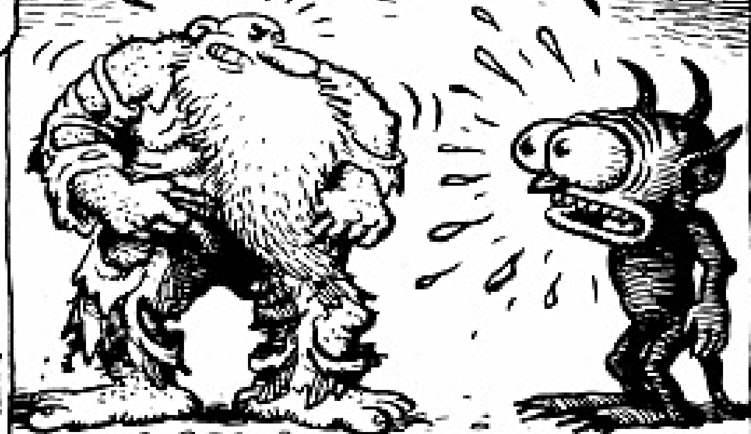
...AND SOME OF THIS!

I WAS LOST BUT NOW I'M FOUND!

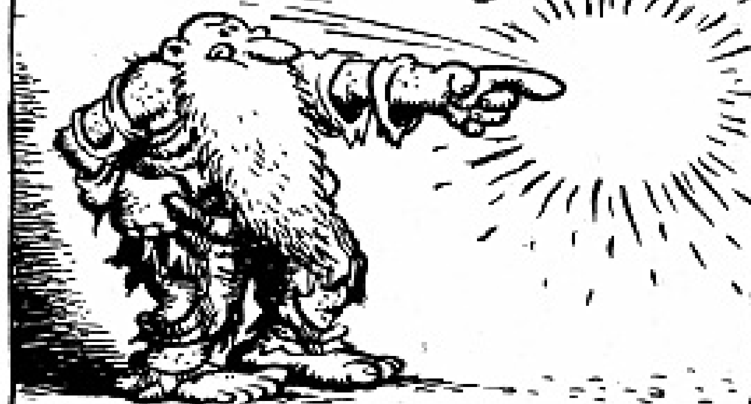
I GOT IT! I GOT IT!

THE SECRET OF LIFE IS... HANG LOOSE!


MR. NATURAL REMEMBERS THE FORGOTTEN "SECRET OF LIFE"!
... WHICH IS: HANG LOOSE!! (FOOD IS IMPORTANT, TOO...) ...NOW I KNOW WHAT I MUST DO!
NEVERMIND THAT! ARE YOU READY TO BOW BEFORE ME OR DO YOU WANT SOME MORE PUNISHMENT!?!

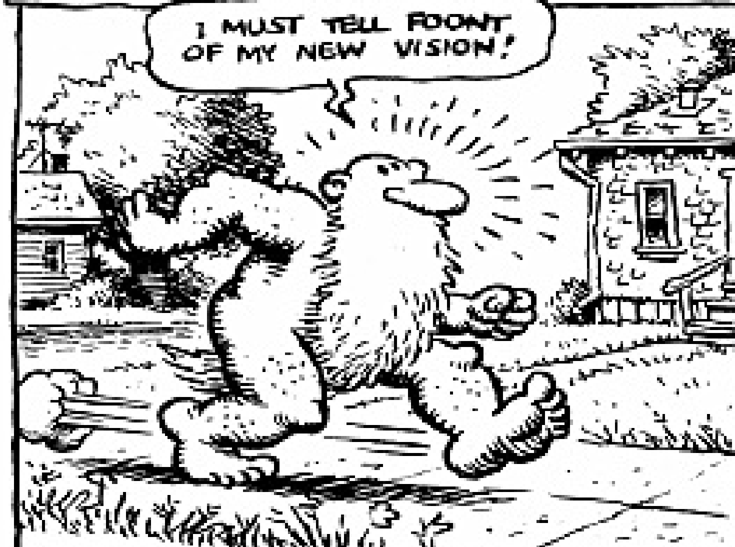

YOU!! YOU'RE FLOATIN' ON THIN ICE, PAL...
WH-WHUDDAYA MEAN??


LET ME JUST SAY THIS WHOLE THING HAS BEEN A GREAT LESSON TO ME, AND I APPRECIATE IT... REALLY I DO...
HUH? I DON'T GET IT...WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!


I WAS—
GET LOST, CREEP!
POP


THE FACES OF HIS FRIENDS FLOOD MR. NATURAL'S BRAIN...


I MUST START A COMMUNE!!

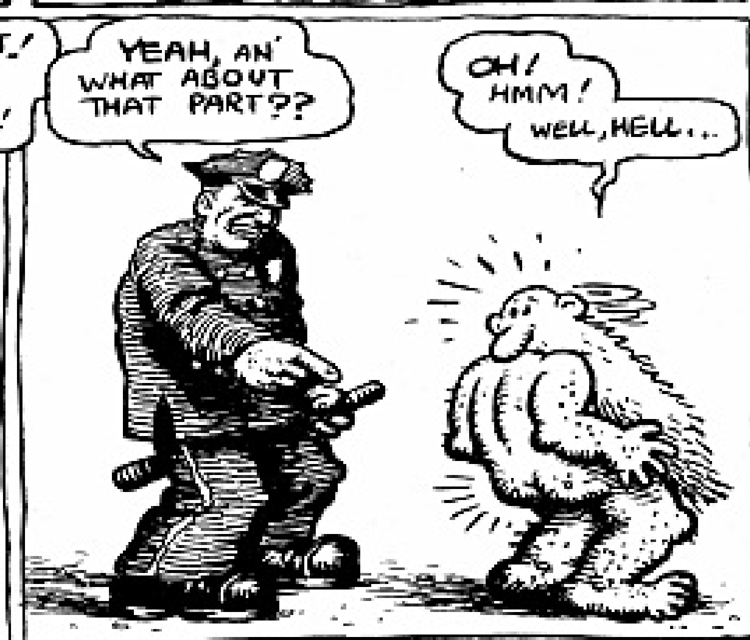

HE'S OUTA THE HOLE AND SEETHING WITH A NEW RELIGIOUS FERVOR!!
I MUST TELL FOONT OF MY NEW VISION!


THE MR. NATURAL COMMUNE! A PLACE IN TH' COUNTRY FOR ME AN' ALL MY FRIENDS! ...BACK TO TH' LAND!!
HEY!
IT'LL BE NICE!


HEY YOU! HALT!
WHAT?
? ? ?


WHAT'RE YOU? SOME KIND OF A NUT??
YOU GOT NOTHIN' ON ME!


YOU CAN'T WALK AROUND IN PUBLIC STARK BEAR NAKED! IT'S INDECENT EXPOSURE!!
OH! I FORGOT! HEH HEH! BUT IT'S OKAY! MY BEARD COVERS IT! SEE?


YEAH, AN' WHAT ABOUT THAT PART??
OH! HMM! WELL, HELL...

MR. "AU NATURAL" HAS BEEN NABBED FOR NUDITY AT NOON!!

LOOK HERE, OFFICER! I REALLY CAN'T BE BOTHERED WITH ALL THESE PETTY LEGALITIES... LET'S JUST SAY I'M ONE OF THESE "STREAKERS"!

STREAKING WENT OUT WITH WATERBEDS AND WATERGATE... NOW WHAT'S YOUR STORY, MISTER!?

THINK I'M LYIN', HUH?!? JUST WATCH ME STREAK!!

LA LA LA!!

HEY, COME BACK HERE!! HALT!! HALT!!



I BETTER FIND SOME-THING TO PUT ON BEFORE I WIND UP IN A JAIL-CELL!!

EVERY COP IN TOWN IS GONNA BE LOOKIN' FOR TH' NATCH!!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

IT'S AMAZING THE THINGS YOU CAN GET OUT OF TRASHCANS...

TH' POLICE WILL NEVER REKKINIZE ME IN THIS GET-UP!!

APPLES

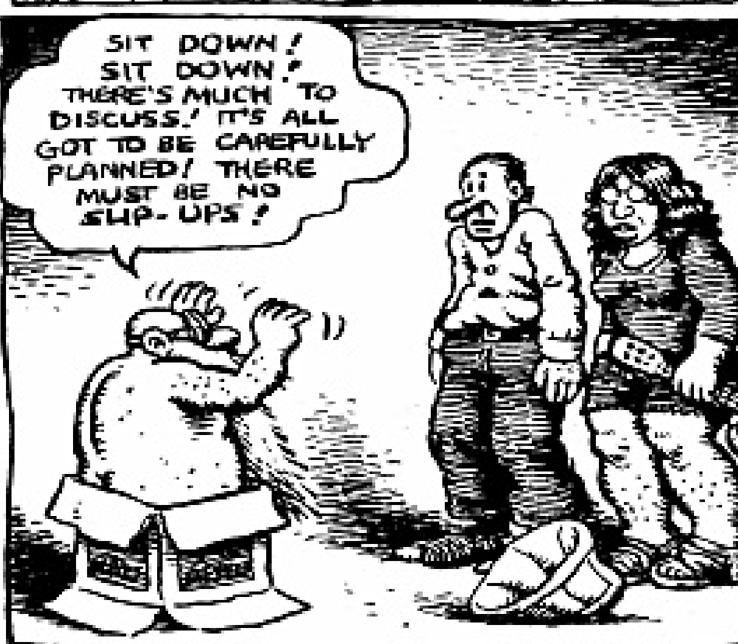
MEANWHILE...

PEAS, PEAS, PEAS, PEAS, EATING GOOBER PEAS... NOTHING'S MORE DELICIOUS THAN EATING GOOBER PEAS


KNOCK KNOCK
I'LL GET IT...
SHOOK IT UP THIS MORNING


FLAKEY FOONT, MY DEAREST BOY, I GREET YOU WITH GOOD TIDINGS OF THE NEW AND WONDROUS FUTURE THAT AWAITS US!!


OH, YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE THE HELL I'VE BEEN THROUGH, MY BOY! BUT, NEVERMIND! NEVER-MIND! THE CHICKENS HAVE COME HOME TO ROOST! THE TIME HAS ARRIVED!
GOD IS ON OUR SIDE!


SIT DOWN! SIT DOWN! THERE'S MUCH TO DISCUSS! IT'S ALL GOT TO BE CAREFULLY PLANNED! THERE MUST BE NO SLIP-UPS!


WE'VE GOT TO—
UH, SURE, SURE.... BUT HOW 'BOUT SOME TEA, MR. NATURAL... WAIT HERE... RUTH SCHWARTZ AND I WILL GO MAKE IT IN TH' KITCHEN.... OKAY?
"MAKE IT IN THE KITCHEN"! HA HA... GET IT? "MAKE IT IN TH' KITCHEN"?? AHA HA HA...


HEH HEH
HEH HEH
HEH
I WAS AFRAID THIS WOULD HAPPEN... HE'S HAD A TOTAL BREAKDOWN! IT'S A PATHETIC SIGHT! WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM TO A HOSPITAL!
OH MY GOD!


FLOONT IS CONVINCED THAT MR. NATURAL HAS LOST HIS WITS!
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, FLAKEY??
WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM TO A HOSPITAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT WE MUST TRY NOT TO UPSET HIM IN ANY WAY!


WE'LL HUMOR HIM... ACT AS IF THERE'S NOTHING WRONG AND WE'LL TRY TO GET HIM IN THE CAR ON SOME PRETEXT...
GOOD IDEA! THE POOR OL' GUY!
EH? WHAT'S THAT?

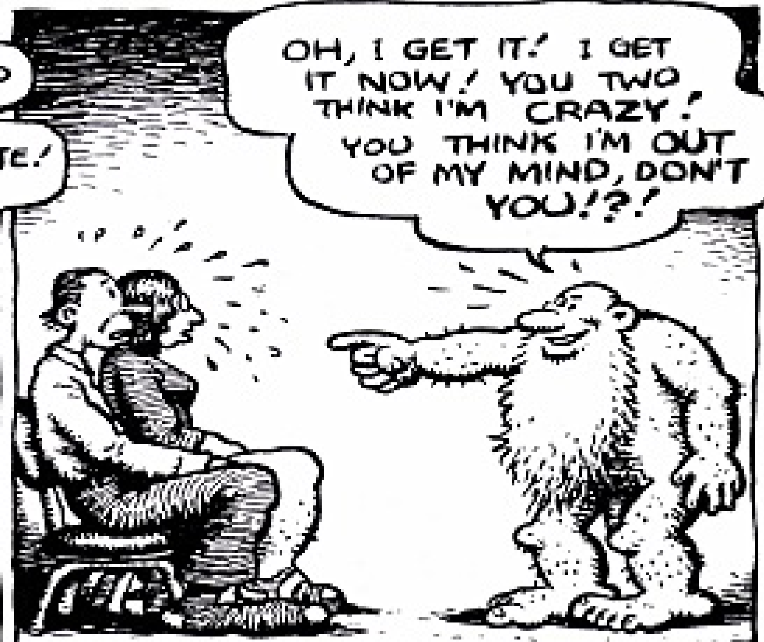

HI, MR. NATURAL! HEH HEH..
HERE'S SOME TEA AND CRACKERS...
OH YUMMY! JUST MY FAVOR-ITEST SNACK! YOU ARE TOO KIND!


SO, THEN, HOW'S THE WORLD TREATING YOU THESE DAYS, MR. NATURAL? HOW'VE YOU BEEN FEELING LATELY? HEH HEH...
HOW ARE THINGS OVER THERE WHERE YOU LIVE? IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT?
???

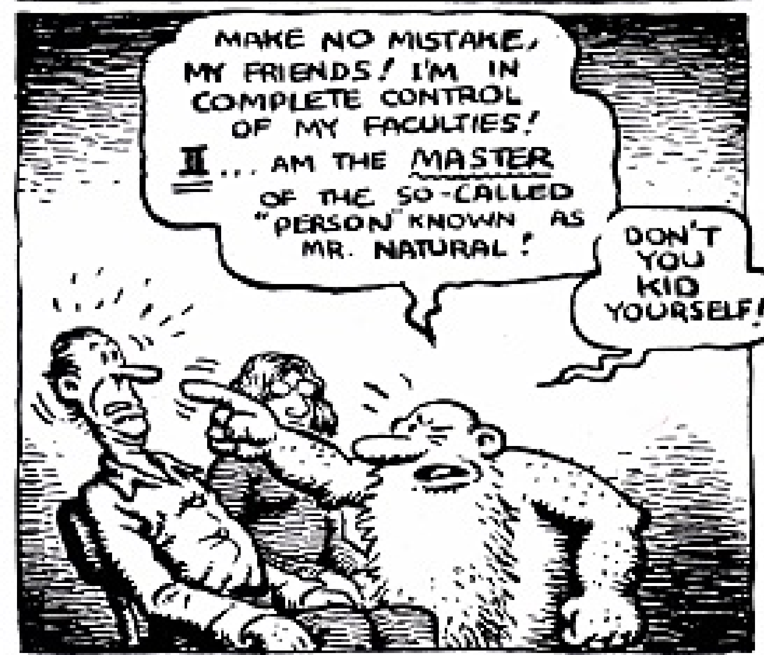

IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF HOW I'M FEELING! NO NO! I'M ON THE MOVE! DESTINY IS CALLING, KIDS! HEAR IT? SHHHH...
LISTEN!


HM! AHH YES! YES, I HEAR IT! YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT, MR. NATURAL! HEAR IT CALLING, RUTH??
OH! YEAH, I HEAR IT TOO! DESTINY IS TRULY CALLING!!
YEAH! WOW!


UH, MR. NATURAL, LET ME ASK YOU THIS... UHH... DO YOU EVER FEEL THAT REALITY IS ... I MEAN, THAT YOU MAY BE LOSING TOUCH WITH ...UH ...
HAVE YOU BEEN FEELING DEPRESSED LATELY??
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT'RE YOU DRIVING AT?? WHAT IS THIS??

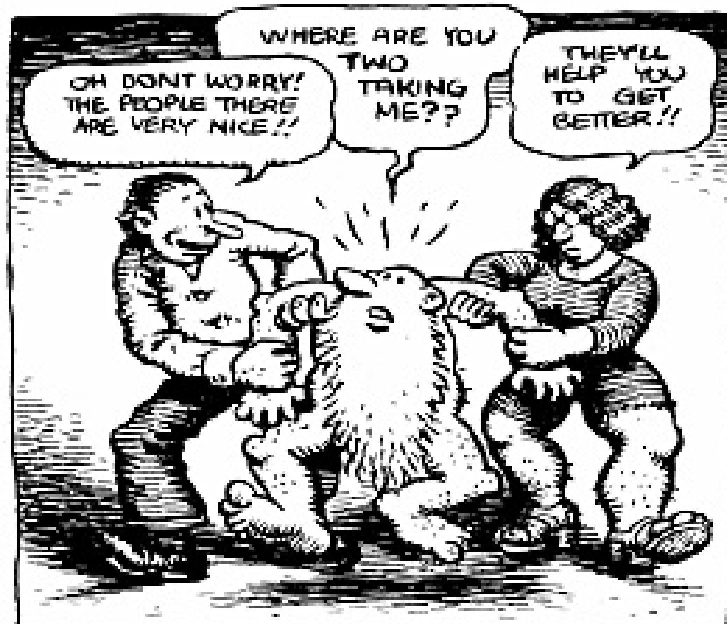

OH, I GET IT! I GET IT NOW! YOU TWO THINK I'M CRAZY! YOU THINK I'M OUT OF MY MIND, DON'T YOU!?!

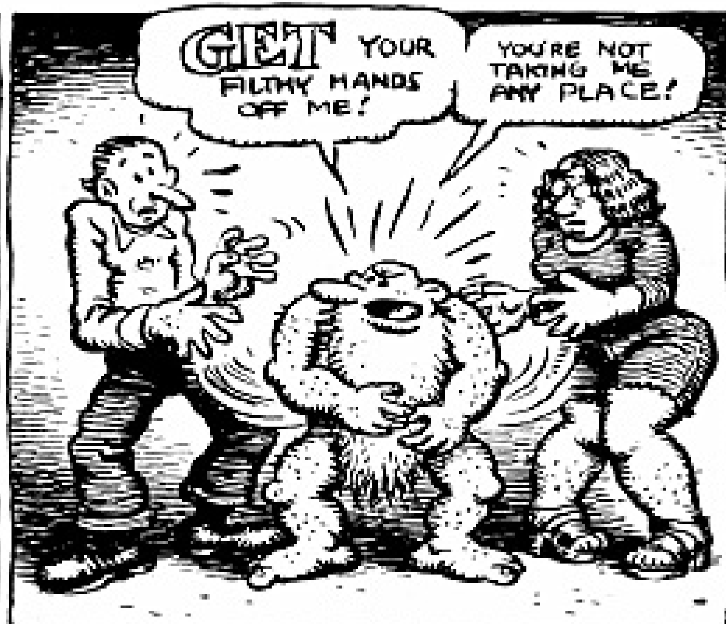

AHA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!!


MAKE NO MISTAKE, MY FRIENDS! I'M IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF MY FACULTIES! I... AM THE MASTER OF THE SO-CALLED "PERSON" KNOWN AS MR. NATURAL!
DON'T YOU KID YOURSELF!


HA HA..ME, CRAZY... OH MAN! SOME NERVE! I OUGHTA WALK OUTA HERE AND NEVER SPEAK TO EITHER OF YOU AGAIN! THAT'S THE THANKS I GET FOR ALL I'VE DONE FOR YOU PEOPLE! BUT IT'S TYPICAL, IT'S TYPICAL! WHAT MORE CAN YOU EXPECT FROM HUMANITY... THOSE DIRTY AL-
BZZZT FZZZT


MR. NATURAL, Y'WANNA GET IN TH'CAR NOW? COME ON, WE'LL GO TO A NICE QUIET PLACE...
THEY'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU UNTIL YOU'RE ALL BETTER!


WHERE ARE YOU TWO TAKING ME??
OH DONT WORRY! THE PEOPLE THERE ARE VERY NICE!!
THEY'LL HELP YOU TO GET BETTER!!


GET YOUR FILTHY HANDS OFF ME!
YOU'RE NOT TAKING ME ANY PLACE!


THERE'S NOTHING WHAT EVER WRONG WITH ME... IF YOU'LL JUST LET ME TELL YOU OF THE PLAN, YOU'LL SEE THE UTTER PERFECT SENSE OF IT!
NOW THEN! ..UH.. THEN NOW... UH... UM... LESSEE..
WELL?


IT CAME TO ME IN A FLASH! I WAS MEDITATING AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS DEEP HOLE IN THE GROUND... THERE I WAS, HALF DEAD FROM THE TERRIFIC BATTLE I WAS HAVING WITH THE DEVIL, WHEN SUDDENLY—
PST....
GOTCHA


LET'S GO!
WAIT A MINUTE! WAIT A MINUTE!!


I'LL GO QUIETLY, IF YOU'LL JUST... ...JUST AT LEAST GET ME SOME-THING TO CLOTHE MY PATHETIC NAKEDNESS... PLEASE?
OKAY OKAY
FIND 'IM SOME CLOTHES, WILLYA RUTH? I'LL HOLD 'M!
SOB SOB

FLOONT BELIEVES MR. NATURAL HAS GONE BANANAS...

DON'T WORRY, MR. NATURAL. EVERY THING'S GOING TO BE ALRIGHT...

OH TO THINK IT'S COME TO THIS!

SOB SOB

Y'KNOW, FLAKEY FOONT, I CAN REMEMBER A TIME WHEN YOU THOUGHT MR. NATURAL COULD DO NO WRONG!

YEAH, WELL, I STILL HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF RESPECT FOR YOU, MR. NATURAL, BUT LET'S FACE IT, I WAS RATHER NAÏVE IN THOSE DAYS...

HAH! I COULD STILL WORK MY WILL ON YOU IF I WANTED TO, BUT GUESS WHAT!? I DONT WANT TO!

YEAH, SURE! SURE!

...AN' THAT'S TH' TRUTH! I—

HERE! PUT THIS ON!

THIS DOESNT FIT ME AT ALL!!! IT'S MUCH TOO BIG! HAVENT YOU GOT SOMETHING MORE IN MY SIZE? AND BESIDES, IT'S TOO HOT OUTSIDE NOW FOR A HEAVY OVERCOAT!

I CANT GO OUT IN THIS!

I'LL FIND YOU SOMETHING!

HA HA HA

HERE... THIS OLD PAIR OF MADRAS BERMUDA SHORTS WILL DO...

WHAT?!

I WOULDN'T DREAM OF BEING SEEN IN PUBLIC IN THOSE HIDEOUS THINGS!!

HM!


NOW YOU'RE JUST BEING OBSTINATE, MR. NATURAL!
COME ON! PUT THESE SHORTS ON! STOP BEING SO CONTRARY!
Y'KNOW, I COULD BEAT THE SHIT OUTA YOU IF I WANTED TO, FOONT!! I HOPE YOU REALIZE THAT!


I'LL HOLD 'IM!
YEAH, SURE... NOW GET INTO THESE SHORTS! YOU'RE JUST MAKING IT HARDER ON YOURSELF!!
YOU DIRTY—


OOPS! HE GOT AWAY!
I DONT WANNA PUT THOSE ON!
AND YOU CANT MAKE ME!


GRAB HIM!
TH' LI'L STINKER!
HE'S FAST FOR AN OLD GUY!!
EEK! HA HA HA HA!

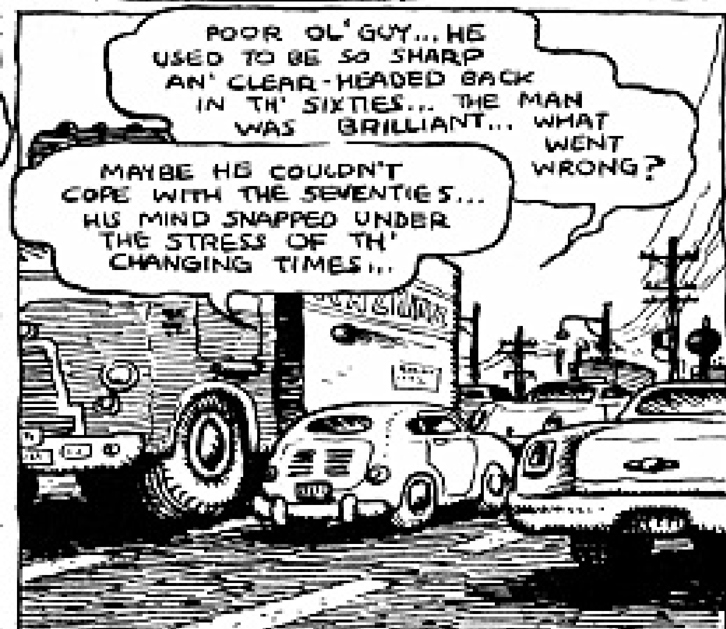

WE GOT'M CORNERED!!
DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY THIS TIME!!


I GOT'M!
I'LL GET THESE SHORTS ON HIM!
HOLD STILL!!
GRRARHH!
EEYOW!
GODDAMN DIRTY PUNKS!
HOLD HIS ARMS DOWN!!

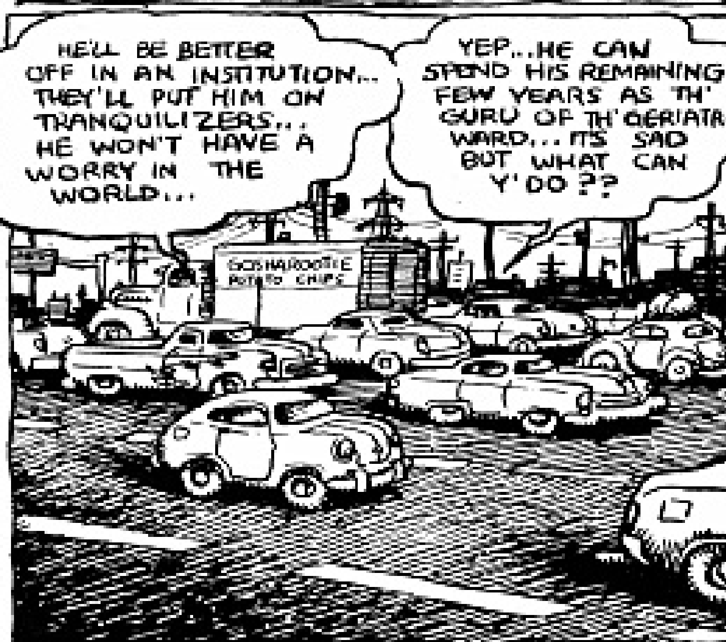

FOONT AND SHWARTZ ARE TAKING MR. NATURAL TO A MENTAL INSTITUTION...
I THINK HE'S FINALLY STOPPED RESISTING...
GOOD! LET'S GET GOING!


SOMEDAY HE'LL REALIZE THAT WE'RE DOING THIS BECAUSE WE LOVE HIM...
IT'S TRUE...IF WE DIDNT CARE, WE'D JUST LET HIM GO RUNNING OFF, STARK NAKED, OUT OF HIS MIND...
PUTT PUTT


HOW'S HE DOING BACK THERE?
HE'S GONE INTO SOME KIND OF TRANCE...HIS EYES ARE GLAZED OVER.... IT'S WEIRD...


POOR OL' GUY...HE USED TO BE SO SHARP AN' CLEAR-HEADED BACK IN TH' SIXTIES... THE MAN WAS BRILLIANT... WHAT WENT WRONG?
MAYBE HE COULDN'T COPE WITH THE SEVENTIES... HIS MIND SNAPPED UNDER THE STRESS OF TH' CHANGING TIMES...


YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT... ..HE WUZ A POPULAR CULTURAL HERO TEN YEARS AGO...HE WAS LOVED BY MILLIONS!
AN' NOW ALL HE'S GOT LEFT IS US...HIS ONLY FRIENDS... IT'S A REAL TRAGEDY...


HE'LL BE BETTER OFF IN AN INSTITUTION.. THEY'LL PUT HIM ON TRANQUILIZERS... HE WON'T HAVE A WORRY IN THE WORLD...
YEP...HE CAN SPEND HIS REMAINING FEW YEARS AS TH' GURU OF TH' GERIATRIC WARD... IT'S SAD BUT WHAT CAN Y'DO??
GOSHAROOTIE POTATO CHIPS


HE'LL BE IN GOOD HANDS HERE... WE'LL RUN HIM THROUGH AN EXTENSIVE SERIES OF TESTS AND APPLY THE NECESSARY TREATMENT... THERE ARE SEVERAL FORMS THAT MUST BE FILLED OUT FOR OUR FILES AND THE STATE... QUESTIONS CONCERNING YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE PATIENT, PERSONAL HISTORY AND SO FORTH...
STATE MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY


AN HOUR LATER, AFTER THE FORMS ARE FILLED OUT...
MORE THAN LIKELY WE'LL BE GIVING HIM SOME KIND OF MEDICATION ON A DAILY BASIS... YOU'LL HAVE TO SIGN AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND THE STATE ALLOWANCE PERMIT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF DRUGS...
LEZ GO, CHAMP...
I SEE...

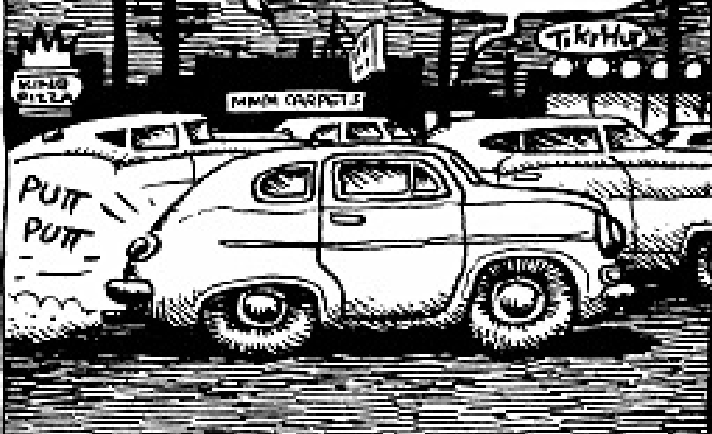

TAKE THESE PAPERS TO THE RECIEVING OFFICE... GO TO THE DESK OF THE COMMITTALS CLERK AND HAVE HER STAMP THIS COPY... YOU KEEP THE DUPLICATE... THE RECIEVING OFFICE IS DOWNSTAIRS, ROOM 10...
NOW JUST SIGN THESE RELINQUISHMENT OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FORMS AND WE'LL GET THIS MOVING THROUGH THE STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT RIGHT AWAY...
OKAY... WHERE DO I SIGN?
RIGHT THERE


DOWNSTAIRS...
HERE YOU ARE... TAKE THIS FOLDER UP TO DR. PINSON'S OFFICE ON THE SECOND FLOOR, ROOM 226... JUST PRESENT IT TO THE SECRETARY... SHE'LL SEND YOU THE FINAL APPROVAL PAPERS BY MAIL...
THANK YOU...

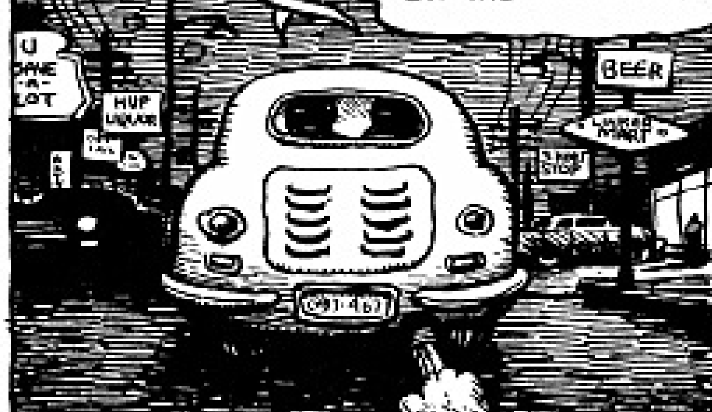

UPSTAIRS...
OOH-KAY! WE'RE ALL SET... YOUR FRIEND IS IN OUR CARE NOW... HERE'S YOUR COPY OF YOUR STATEMENT, ADMITTANCE PAPERS, RECIEPTS & SO ON... WE'LL SEND YOU THE DOCTORS OPINION BY MAIL, WITH TEST RESULTS, IN A WEEK OR SO...
THAT MEANS WE CAN GO NOW?
OF COURSE!!


SO LONG, FINKS!!


FLAKEY FOONT and RUTH SCHWARTZ HAVE JUST COMMITED MR. NATURAL TO A MENTAL INSTITU-TION!
WHEW! I THOUGHT THEY WERE NEVER GONNA LET US OUTA THERE! SCAREY!!
OH MAN! THEY SURE PUTCHOO THRU ALOT OF BUREAUCRATIC BULLSHIT IN THAT JOINT!
SHIT!


I WONDER IF WE DID THE RIGHT THING...
WHAT ELSE COULD WE DO?? WE DID WHAT WE HAD TA DO UNDER TH' CIRCUM-STANCES...
Tiki Hut
PUTT PUTT


I KNOW, BUT THAT HOSPITAL SEEMED LIKE AN AWFUL PLACE!
I KNOW...THOSE STATE INSTITUTIONS ARE FAMOUS FOR BEING HELL-HOLES!!


BUT WHAT IF— WHAT IF HE'S NOT REALLY CRAZY?? WILL THEY LET HIM OUT??
OH..I.. UH.. I IMAGINE SO.. I MEAN, THEY'LL GIVE HIM TESTS 'N' EVERY-THING...I ASSUME THEY KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING OVER THERE.... ON THE OTHER HAND—
BEER


THEY'LL PROBABLY JUST PUT'M ON DOWNERS AN' THROW 'IM IN A WARD WITH A BUNCH OF OTHER DRUGGED OLD MEN... OH GOD, NOW I FEEL TERRIBLE!!
LET'S GO TO BED... I'M EXHAUSTED FROM THE WHOLE ORDEAL....


IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT........
FINKS!
NO-O-O!
EEEK?
BOLT


OOHHH...I DIDNT SLEEP TOO GOOD... WHAT DAY IS IT?
IT'S SATURDAY..YOU DONT HAVE TO GET UP...
THANK GOD.... OH MAN, I FEEL TERRIBLE...


R-R-RING!
YOW!
ANSWER IT! QUICK!


H-HELLO?
HELLO, MR. FOONT? THIS IS RICKY BERNSTEIN FROM THE "VOICE".. I'M CALLING ABOUT A RUMOR GOING AROUND THAT YOU HAD MR. NATURAL COMMITTED TO A STATE MENTAL HOSPITAL! IS THIS TRUE??
WELL, UH... YES, IT IS, BUT... WHO IS THIS AGAIN?
SAY ARE, YOU GONNA BE HOME TODAY?
YEAH, BUT—
I'LL BE RIGHT OVER!


WHO TH' HELL WAS THAT??
UM... SOME GUY FROM THE "VOICE".. YOU KNOW, THAT NEW YORK PAPER... HE-HE'S COMING OVER...
WHAT?! WHEN? WHAT'S HE WANT??

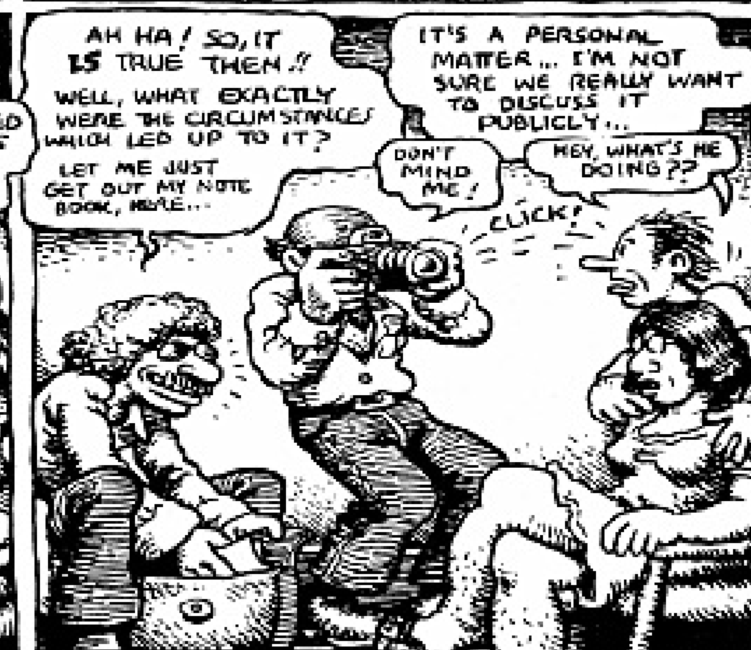

BZZZT?!
THERE'S THE DOORBELL...
I'LL GET IT...
I HAFTA GET DRESSED!


HI! RICKY BERNSTEIN FROM THE "VOICE"... CAN I COME IN??


WHO IS IT, FLAKO ??
OH, IT'S TWO GUYS FROM THE "VOICE," RUTH...
GLAD YOU MET ME, MAN! HEH HEH!


I'M RICKY BERNSTEIN.... THIS IS MIKE MANVILLE...
HEY YOU DON'T MIND IF I GET A FEW PICTURES, DO YA, MAN??
PICTURES?? UH.... WHADDA YOU GUYS WANT?
YEAH, WHAT'S TH' BIG DEAL?


WELL, LET ME ASK YOU THIS: IS THERE ANY TRUTH TO THE RUMORS GOING AROUND THAT YOU TWO HAVE COMMITTED 'SIXTIES GURU MR. NATURAL TO A STATE-RUN MENTAL INSTITUTION!?
WELL...ULP... I... ER...
THE MAN NEEDED HELP! HE WAS LOSING TOUCH WITH REALITY!


AH HA! SO, IT IS TRUE THEN!! WELL, WHAT EXACTLY WERE THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH LED UP TO IT? LET ME JUST GET OUT MY NOTE BOOK, HERE...
IT'S A PERSONAL MATTER... I'M NOT SURE WE REALLY WANT TO DISCUSS IT PUBLICLY...
DON'T MIND ME!
HEY, WHAT'S HE DOING??
CLICK!


NOW WAIT... HOLD IT HERE JUST A MINUTE NOW... NOBODY'S ACCUSING ANYBODY OF ANYTHING! IT'S JUST A STORY, THAT'S ALL, MAN... I DON'T WANT YOU TO GET PARANOID... HEY, I GOT AN IDEA! LET'S ALL SMOKE A JOINT AND MEL-LOW OUT!
YEAH!
ER...YEAH OKAY..


HERE, MAN... THIS IS REALLY GOOD DOPE... REALLY GETS Y' OFF, KNOW'D I MEAN?
HA HA HA!
HEH HEH OBOY..


SSSSUCK !!
OH MAN, THIS IS SOME HEAVY SHIT!
COLOMBIAN FLOWER TOPS, MAN...COZMIC! KNOW'D I MEAN? HA HA HA
I HAVE TO GO WATER MY PLANTS...

HERE, MAN... HAVE ANOTHER TOKE...
UH, YEAH... THANKS...MAN...

WE DON'T SHARE OUR BEST DOPE WITH JUST ANYBODY, MAN... PASS ME THAT JOINT, PAL...
SSSUCK...
HERE!

THAT DOPE IS SO FUCKIN' MELLOW IS TH' THING, MAN!
BEAUTIFUL...
SSSUCK!

HEY, MAN, HOW COME YOU'RE SHAKIN' LIKE THAT?
WUZZAT WEED TOO STRONG FOR Y'ER SUP'M??
WHAT!?
SHAKING??

!
I AM?!?


D-DON'T M-MIND ME, FELLOWS...I ALWAYS GET THE SHAKES WHEN I SMOKE STRONG GRASS... ...IT'S NOTHING REALLY...
IT'LL GO AWAY IN A MINUTE.. HEH HEH...
SURE, MAN!
WE UNDER- -STAND...


LOOK, MAN...I CAN DIG WHERE YOU'RE AT... YOU'RE FEELING A LITTLE GUILTY ABOUT PUTTING TH'OL' MAN AWAY IN THE NUT HOUSE... SO LET'S TALK ABOUT IT, OKAY?
YEAH...GET IT OFF YOUR CHEST, MAN...LET IT OUT...
OH! THAT!? YEAH, I... ...UH...

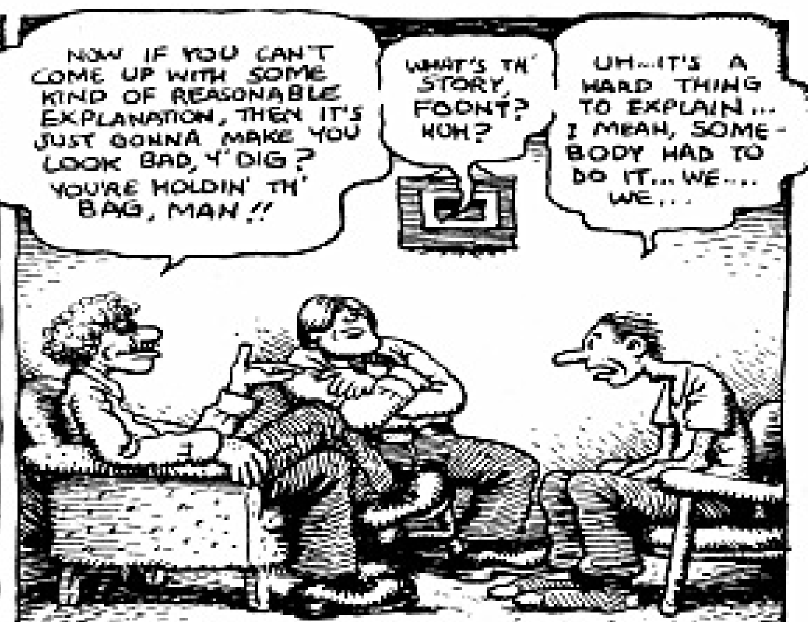

HELP US OUT, MAN... WE NEED AN ANGLE, A STORY, DIG? SOMETHING WITH POIGNANCY, KNOW'D I MEAN? GIVE US A HANDLE... SOMETHING WE CAN GRAB AHOLE OF, Y'KNOW?
GEE, I'M SO STONED, I...I DON'T KNOW... HA HA...IF I CAN EVEN...UH...


TELL US WHAT HAPPENED, MAN!
OKAY, EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT MR. NATURAL'S BEEN UH...SORT OF "OVER THE HILL" THESE LAST FEW YEARS...KIND OF ON THE SKIDS, SO T' SPEAK, AND, UH...
OH NO! HE WASN'T! NO, NOT AT ALL!! IN FACT, HE—


"OH NO"?? HE WASN'T OVER THE HILL? THEN WHAT CAUSED HIM TO GO OFF THE DEEP END? OR DID HE?? MAYBE HE WASN'T CRAZY AT ALL!! MAYBE YOU HAD OTHER MOTIVES FOR PUTTIN' TH' DUDE ON ICE... HUH? HUH?
THE PUBLIC HAS A RIGHT TO KNOW, THE TRUTH, MAN!
OTHER MOTIVES?? WH- WHADDAYA MEAN??


LOOK, MAN, WAS TH' GUY CRAZY OR WASN'T HE?
FINKS!
UM
UH
UH
ER


LISTEN MAN, THE PUBLIC... THE PEOPLE OUT THERE... WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED!! YOU HAVE PLACED A CULTURAL FIGURE OF TH' SIXTIES IN A STATE INSTITUTION... THE WORLD IS ASKING "WHY?"!!
YAWN!
WELL, I... I...


NOW IF YOU CAN'T COME UP WITH SOME KIND OF REASONABLE EXPLANATION, THEN IT'S JUST GONNA MAKE YOU LOOK BAD, Y'DIG? YOU'RE HOLDIN' TH' BAG, MAN!!
WHAT'S TH' STORY, FOONT? HUH?
UH-IT'S A HARD THING TO EXPLAIN... I MEAN, SOMEBODY HAD TO DO IT... WE... WE...


...WE JUST COULDN'T LET HIM WALK AROUND LOOSE IN THE STATE OF MIND HE WAS IN... TH' COPS WOULD'VE GRABBED HIM... WE FELT IT WAS OUR DUTY, AS HIS FRIENDS, TO...
YOUR "DUTY" MAN??
YOUR "DUTY" HUH?


OH MAN! AH HA HA HA HA HA HA
SHIT! HA HA HA!
WHAT'S FUNNY? IT'S NOT A JOKE!! IF YOU COULD HAVE SEEN 'IM, YOU'D KNOW WHAT I MEAN... HE WAS LITERALLY OUT OF HIS MIND!! HE WAS TALKING NONSENSE... AND WAS RUNNING AROUND IN THE STREETS NAKED, AND...


HEY, LET'S DO UP ANOTHER JOINT, WHATAYA SAY, MAN??
SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA TO ME!!
...WITH A LAMPSHADE ON HIS HEAD... ...AND HE HAD THIS BOX... LIKE, A REGULAR CARDBOARD BOX... THAT HE...


Y'KNOW, MIKE, I DUNNO ABOUT THIS STORY... IT'S NOT REALLY COMIN' TOGETHER FOR ME, Y'DIG WHAT I'M SAYIN', MAN? IT'S NOT CLICKING, IF Y'KNOW'D I MEAN...
YEAH, WELL, WHO TH' FUCK IS THIS GUY MR. NATURAL ENNYWAY? I NEVER EVEN HEARD O' TH' DUDE BEFORE, FA CHRISSAKE!! PASS ME THAT JOINT, PAL!!


THOSE TWO GUYS FROM THE "VILLAGE VOICE" HAVE BEEN HERE ALL DAY! I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO GO IN THERE AN' GET RID OF 'EM!

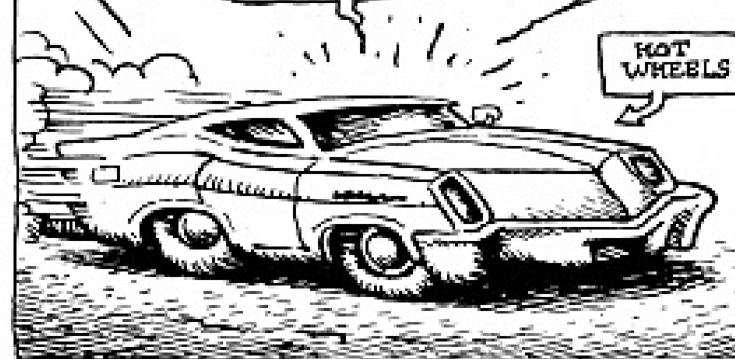

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL WORLD, MIKE!
PASS ME THAT JOINT, PAL!
SSSUCK


HEY! IT'S TH' LI'L WOMAN!
HEY MISSIS! WANNA TOKE O' SOME O' THIS COLUMBIAN? IT'S TH' GOODS!!
WE DON'T OFFER OUR BEST DOPE TO JUST ANYBODY, Y'KNOW!
NO THANKS! I HAVE A LOT OF THINGS TO DO!


LISTEN, IF YOU GUYS REALLY WANT TH' LOW-DOWN ON MR. NATURAL, YOU SHOULD GO TALK TO HIS BEST FRIEND IN THE WHOLE WORLD, PROFESSOR WANOWSKY!
OH YEAH, MR. NATURAL! ALMOST FOR-GOT ABOUT HIM! HA HA HA HA! MAN, AM I STONED!!
I NEVER EVEN HEARD OF 'M MYSELF! TA HA HA HA!!


I CALLED HIM FOR YOU... HE SAID YOU COULD COME OVER ANY TIME... NAME'S PROFESSOR WANOWSKY... HERE'S HIS ADDRESS AND A SET OF DIRECTIONS ON HOW TO GET THERE...
OH, HEY, OUTA SITE! YOU TAKIN' CARE O' BIDNESS, BABEH!! HYUK!
OH MAN, NOW WE GOTTA GO TALK TO SOME FRIGGIN' PROFESSA! SHID...


BYE!
BITCH!
STOOPID CUNT! C'MON, MAN! LESS GO GRAB SOME LUNCH!


A REPORTER AND A PHOTOGRAPHER FROM THE "VOICE" ARE TRYING TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO MR. NATURAL...
BRADABRADABRADABRADABR
THIS GUY WANOWSKY IS S'POSE TO BE TH' NATCH'S BEST FRIEND...
TH' DUDE SEEMS TO LIVE WAY OUT IN TH' STICKS...
HOT WHEELS


VVROOOOOMMM
WHAT A PAIN IN TH' ASS, MAN!
SHIT!
SMITH'S GARAGE


TH' PLACE SHOULD BE UP AT TH' END OF THIS ROAD!
IT'S ABOUT TIME, F'CHRIS-SAKE!
BRADOWWUMM


VVRRWAHHH
WHAT TH' HELL —


GODDAMN ACCURSED HOT-ROD PUNKS ARE RUINING THIS NATION!!
SCREEEE
NO PEACE AND QUIET IN THIS WORLD ANYMORE!

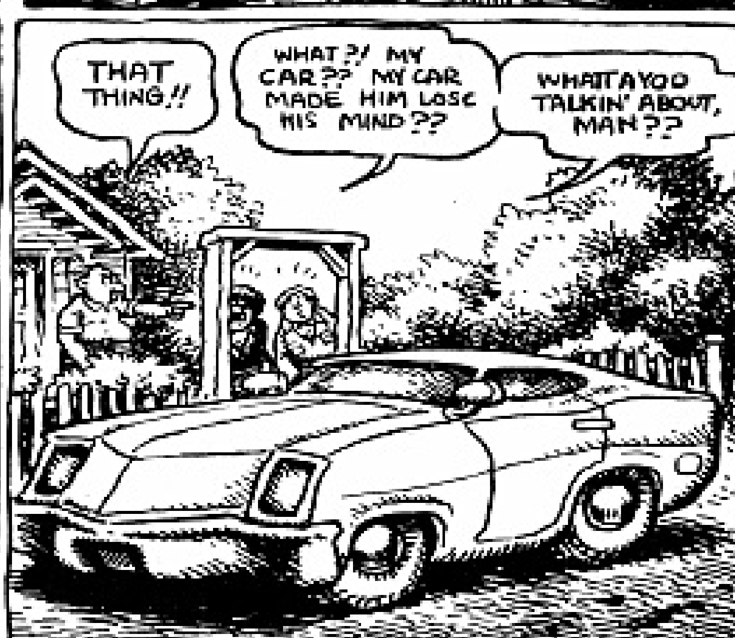

HEY MAN, SOMEDAY I'M GONNA MOVE OUT TO A NICE QUIET SPOT LIKE THIS, Y'KNOW'D I MEAN??
HEY, I C'N DIG IT, MAN... TH' PROF'S GOT A COZY LITTLE DEAL OUT HERE... NO TRAFFIC, NO NOISE... SURE IS MELLOW, HUH?

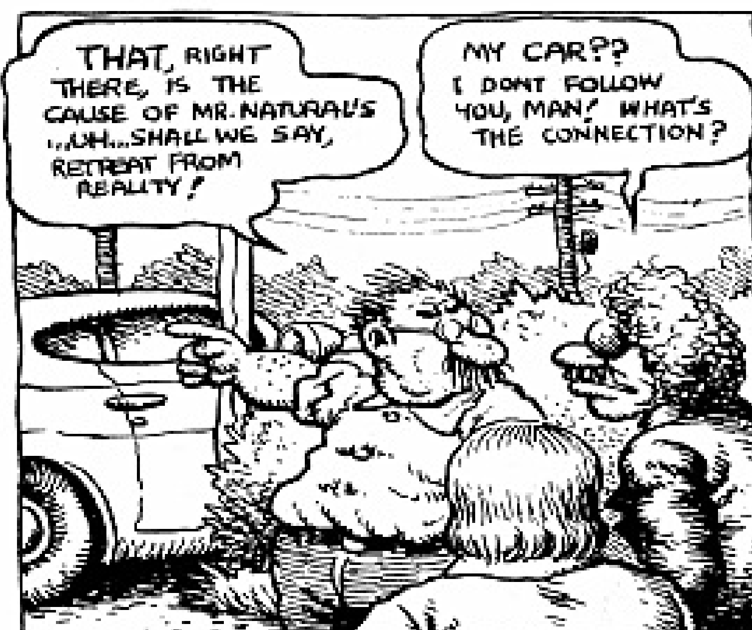
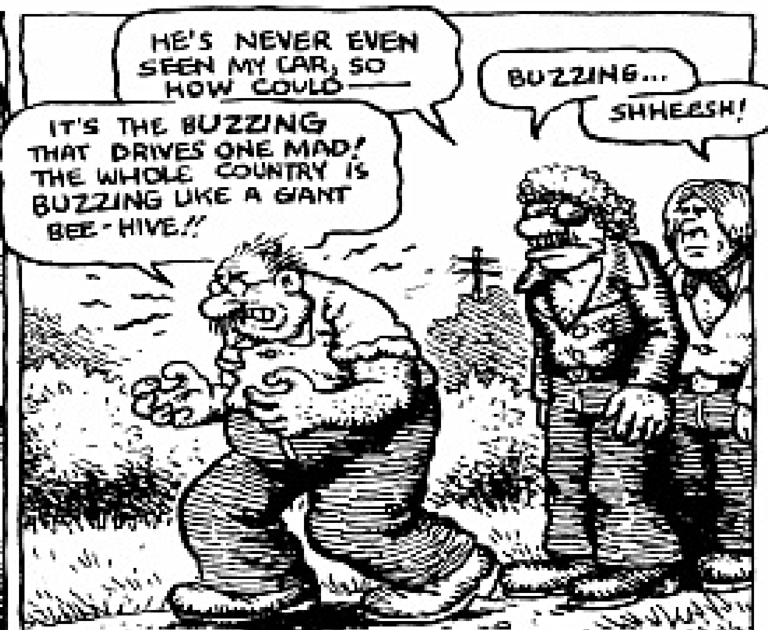

MAN, THIS'S SOME O' TH' BEST WEED I'VE HAD IN A DOG'S AGE, Y' KNOW'D I MEAN?
HUM HM
SSSUCK!
I'M HIP, RICK! PASS IT OVER TO TH' PROFESSOR THERE...

WE DON'T OFFER OUR BEST DOPE TO EVERYBODY, MAN...
...'S DYNAMITE SHIT!
HM
UM
UNH

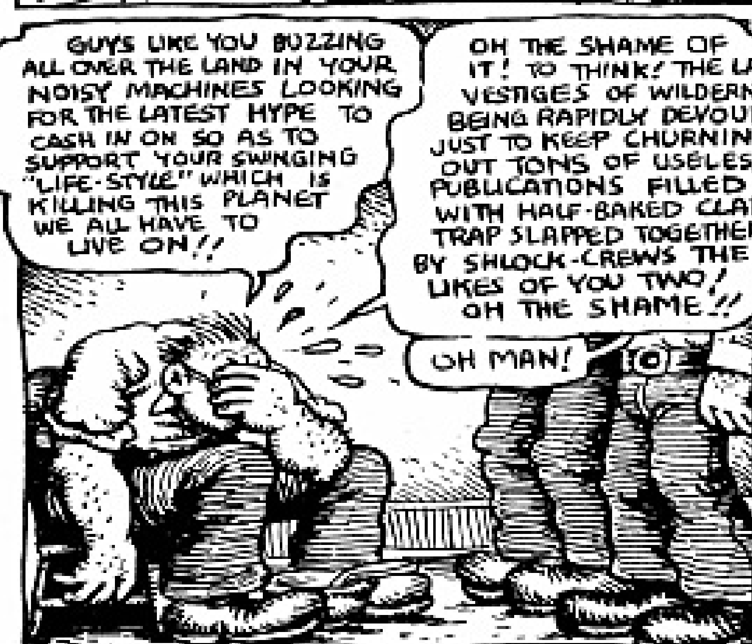
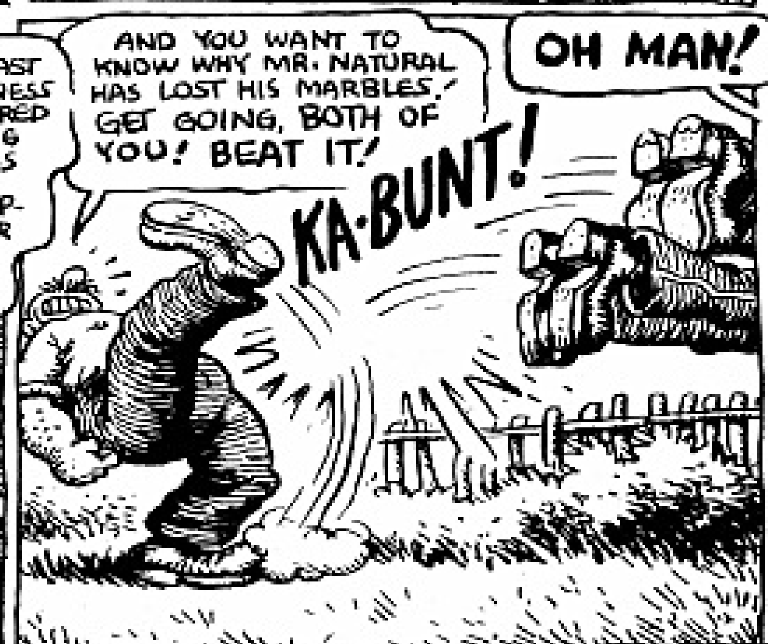
HEY, PROFESSA! Y'WANT A HIT OF THIS TOP-NOTCH GRASS??
NO, I DON'T!

SUIT Y'SELF, MAN!
SO, YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY OLD MR. NATURAL LOST HIS MIND, EH? WELL, I'LL TELL YOU WHY!!

OH YEAH... HEY, JIST A SECOND, LEMME GET OUT MY NOTE BOOK AND—
THAT! THAT'S WHAT DID IT TO HIM!!
HUH? WHAT!

THAT THING!!
WHAT?! MY CAR?? MY CAR MADE HIM LOSE HIS MIND??
WHATTAYOO TALKIN' ABOUT, MAN??


THAT, RIGHT THERE, IS THE CAUSE OF MR. NATURAL'S ...UH...SHALL WE SAY, RETREAT FROM REALITY!
MY CAR?? I DONT FOLLOW YOU, MAN! WHAT'S THE CONNECTION?

HE'S NEVER EVEN SEEN MY CAR, SO HOW COULD—
IT'S THE BUZZING THAT DRIVES ONE MAD! THE WHOLE COUNTRY IS BUZZING LIKE A GIANT BEE-HIVE!!
BUZZING...
SHHEESH!

BUZZ BUZZ BUZZ ALL THE TIME! THERE'S NO ESCAPE! YOU CAN'T GET AWAY FROM IT!!
MORE AND MORE AND MORE AS EACH DAY PASSES!!
CAR ENGINES!! JET PLANES! BUSSES! TRUCKS! MOTOR CYCLES! POWER MOWERS! TRACTORS! CHAIN SAWS! RADIOS! TAPE DECKS! DIRT BIKES! SPEED BOATS AND SNOW MOBILES!
OH MAN...

A HUNDRED-MILLION GUYS LIKE YOU BUZZING AROUND IN YOUR POWERFUL MACHINES... SURE IT'S FUN, BUT WHERE CAN A PERSON GO TO GET SOME PEACE AND QUIET IN THIS HUGE LAND OF OURS?? I'LL TELL YOU WHERE... NO WHERE!! AND BELIEVE ME, I'VE TRIED!!
HEY, COME ON, MAN!
LIGHTEN UP, BABY!!
SLURP
RICE PUDDING

GUYS LIKE YOU BUZZING ALL OVER THE LAND IN YOUR NOISY MACHINES LOOKING FOR THE LATEST HYPE TO CASH IN ON SO AS TO SUPPORT YOUR SWINGING "LIFE-STYLE" WHICH IS KILLING THIS PLANET WE ALL HAVE TO LIVE ON!!
OH THE SHAME OF IT! TO THINK! THE LAST VESTIGES OF WILDERNESS BEING RAPIDLY DEVOURED JUST TO KEEP CHURNING OUT TONS OF USELESS PUBLICATIONS FILLED WITH HALF-BAKED CLAP-TRAP SLAPPED TOGETHER BY SHLOCK-CREWS THE LIKES OF YOU TWO! OH THE SHAME!!
OH MAN!

AND YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY MR. NATURAL HAS LOST HIS MARBLES! GET GOING, BOTH OF YOU! BEAT IT!
OH MAN!
KA-BUNT!


HI FOLKS...I...UH...I'VE BEEN READING SOME OF THESE LETTERS THE "VOICE" HAS BEEN GETTING ABOUT THE DISCONTINUATION OF THE MR. NATURAL STRIP AND...UM...I'M DEEPLY TOUCHED, I REALLY AM, BUT I FEEL I MUST CLEAR THE AIR...I HAVE TO GET THE "VOICE" OFF THE HOOK...


I... I GUESS I'M JUST NOT CUT OUT FOR THIS REGULAR STRIP BUSINESS...I THOUGHT I COULD DO IT...I WAS ATTRACTED BY THE ECONOMIC SECURITY...A REGULAR WEEKLY GIG FOR THAT KIND OF MONEY LOOKED REAL GOOD... BUT...I CANT HANDLE IT...THE "VOICE" WAS VERY NICE ABOUT IT...GIL SAID I WAS ALWAYS WELCOME TO COME BACK IF I WANTED TO... AND I'M TOUCHED BY THE RESPONSE IN THE LETTER COLUMN... IT'S ALL VERY TOUCHING, BUT..., MY ARTISTIC, ERRATIC TEMPERAMENT... MY, UH... UNPREDICTABLE "GENIUS" SHALL WE
TALK IS CHEAP


THEY DIN'T STOP THE MR. NATURAL STRIP...I QUIT DRAWING IT...IT WAS TOTALLY MY OWN DECISION...I COULDN'T GO ON WITH IT...NOT BECAUSE OF THE "VOICE"...IN FACT, GIL TRIED VERY HARD TO DISSUADE ME...OH, I HAD A FEW BUREAUCRATIC HASSLES WITH THEM, BUT THAT'S NOT UNUSUAL...AND THE PAY WAS VERY GOOD... ...BUT, YA SEE, I...


ARE YOU FINISHED??
YEAH...I'VE HAD MY SAY... CAN WE GO HOME NOW?
STRONG GIRL


SURE... HOP ON!!
OBOY! I GET A RIDE!
HUP!


SO LONG FOLKS!
END



Mr. Natural

NO.3

$1.00

STICK WITH ME, FOLKS! I GOT ALL THE ANSWERS!

HUP HO!

YEAH

MY HERO!

R. CRUMB '77